Toronto metro

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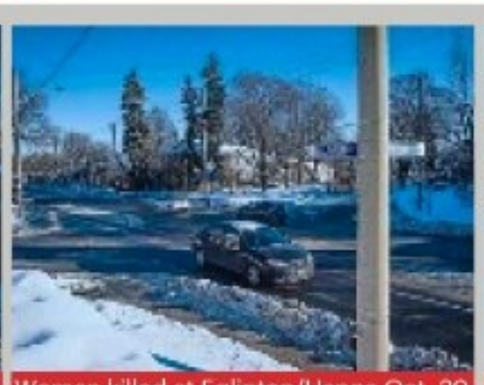
Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016 | High 1°C/Low -1°C Mostly cloudy

Pedestrian killed at Eglinton/Midland Dec. 20


Woman killed at Eglinton/Hanna Oct. 20

Woman killed at Eglinton/Midland Oct. 2

Man killed at Eglinton/Winter Oct. 2

Man killed at Eglinton/Hilltop Sept. 30

Man killed at Eglinton/Dynevor June 22

Man killed at Eglinton/Beachell April 25

Woman killed at Eglinton/Bayview Jan. 15

EGLINTON AVENUE IS TORONTO'S DEADLIEST STREET

Eight deaths, seven intersections — no other Toronto roadway comes close. What needs to change, metroNEWS

Moving to the 'burbs? Think again

The already glaring gap between property taxes in Brampton and Mississauga compared to Toronto is getting even wider.

The GTA's second and third largest cities just passed their respective budgets for 2017 last week, and things continue to look grim for homeowners, with tax hikes above inflation and questions about how Mississauga and Brampton will manage the coming onslaught of infrastructure needs, many of which are already being put off.

With the latest budget increases, in 2017 a Brampton home with an assessed value of $500,000 will cost owners about $5,278 in property taxes; in Mississauga a home with the same value will have about $4,498 in property taxes; and in Toronto a home assessed at $500,000 will cost you $3,495 in property taxes (which includes $940 for the education portion and $15 for the transit expansion levy.)

The overall property tax increase Mississauga homeowners will see in 2017 is 2.9 per cent, but this includes the Region of Peel share and the provincial education share. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Professionalism at its finest: Metro photographer on the journalists who captured assassination. **World**

Keeping it Kensington

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Group looks to buy up land to protect area's bohemian vibe

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

In a bid to keep Kensington Market from losing its "bohemian" character, a local community group is looking to buy up land in the neighbourhood.

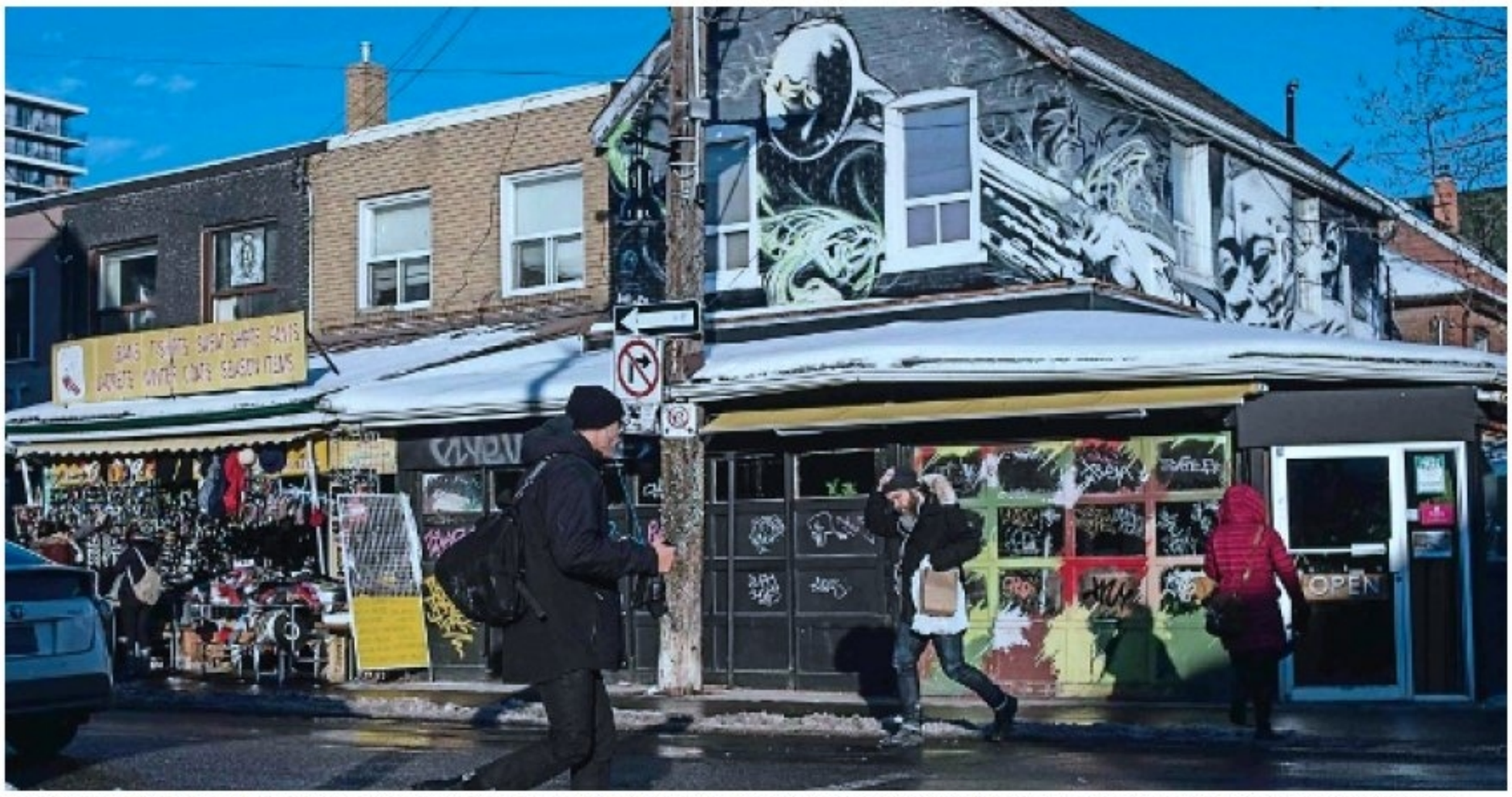
Members of Friends of Kensington Market are in the early stages of setting up what's known as a community land trust.

"The idea would be to buy a building and have an affordable residence above and some kind of small store below," said Dominique Russell, who chairs the group.

It's about preserving not just the character of the neighbourhood but also the people that live there, Russell said, particularly long-term renters who are vulnerable to rising housing costs.

"If they lose their housing, whether it's through fire or landlords kicking them out, they face a kind of an exile," she said.

Sylvia Lassam, a Friends of Kensington Market board member, said the goal is to use land in a way that benefits the community, whether that's giving preference to "a raw food seller over another bar" or "keeping the rents low."



Kensington Market was home to a Jewish market in the early 20th century. Today, its mix of food and flavours makes it one of Toronto's most distinctive neighbourhoods. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

The land would be owned by the trust, which would lease it to long-term tenants. Proceeds would go toward maintaining the property, not turning a profit.

Lassam said the Kensington Market that Torontonians know and love, with its "emphasis on food" and "bohemian vibe," is under threat, and not just from developers.

Medicinal marijuana dispensaries, for example, have moved into the area and are driving up commercial rents as they compete for space, she said.

> **The important thing in the market is preserving diversity.**
> Dominique Russell

Friends of Kensington Market is the same group that fought successfully to keep a Walmart out of the neighbourhood in 2014.

Community Land Trusts are already a phenomenon in the U.S. According to the National Community Land Trust Network, there were at least 250 operating across the country in 2015.

Lassam said many are in places like Detroit, where land is already inexpensive.

"That's the trick; we're trying to do it in Toronto where real estate is through the roof," she said.

Yes, they even recreated us in cartoon form. From top: columnists Matt Elliott and Rosemary Westwood, and senior reporter Luke Simcoe. BRETT LAMB/TORONTOIST

Judge this paper by its cover

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Metro Toronto's front pages have been deemed the best in the city.

Metro beat out the Globe and Mail, National Post, Toronto Star and Toronto Sun to win Torontoist's first annual Front Page Challenge.

"Metro's attempts to effect change and be a spokespaper for urban concerns is an admirable use of the real estate of the front page," said Jesse Hawken, the local writer and media critic who pens the weekly roundup of front pages for the popular blog.

The roundup — which oscillates between sarcasm and sincerity — began in late 2015.

Every Tuesday, Hawken compares the front pages of the five largest papers and picks a winner.

This year, they kept a running tally and gave an award to the paper whose fronts came out on top most often.

"I judge based on a combination of things," Hawken said. "Sometimes it's esthetics and design. When something momentous happens, like the death of Rob Ford, it's about which front page would best belong in a scrapbook."

Hawken applauded Metro for taking a different approach to the news than the other papers.

On Tuesday, for example, he noted Metro Toronto was the only paper to run a different photo of the assassination of Russian ambassador Andrei Karlov.

Rather than "romanticize" the shooter, Metro's photo choice placed the victim in the foreground, Hawken said.

"It reminded everyone there's a dead person who should be the centre of attention. I thought it was admirable," he said.

BEST FRONTS

Total wins of 2016:

- **Metro:** 18
- **Toronto Sun:** 14
- **Toronto Star:** 11
- **Globe and Mail:** 11
- **National Post:** 7

Innovative eatery Signs shuts down

EMPLOYMENT

Closure a loss of opportunity for deaf people says owner

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Canada's first restaurant staffed mostly by deaf servers has shut its doors.

Signs Restaurant opened to much fanfare in July 2014, and was hailed for its innovative approach to employing the deaf, who often have trouble finding jobs.

The Yonge and Wellesley small business also invited customers to use sign language to order, giving them a crash course with illustrations on how to sign menu items.

Owner Anjan Manikumar said he simply ran out of funds to run the restaurant, which closed Dec. 12.

"We wanted to somehow save the concept and unfortunately we were not able to," he said.

"It's a good learning experience I think, I just feel bad for the staff because a lot of them felt extremely, extremely disappointed."

The restaurant employed about 40 people, mostly deaf, said Manikumar, who learned American Sign Language to communicate with customers while working as a manager at Boston Pizza in Markham.

Part of the issue was upfront costs of training staff "from scratch." Many had never worked in the service industry before, he said.

Manikumar said he tried applying for government grants to support the employment for the deaf the restaurant was providing, but was unsuccessful. While the restaurant had some success in drawing tourists, he said many walk-ins would turn around and walk out when they realized the staff was deaf, he said.

Brian McKenzie, director of training and employment services with the Canadian Hearing Society, which provides services to help people with hearing disabilities find jobs, called the closure of Signs "unfortunate."

"It does mean a loss of opportunity for deaf people to be employed," he said.

People with hearing disabilities can face many barriers to employment, but often they can be solved with simple accommodations if a company is willing to take the time, McKenzie said.

"If anybody is looking for support in finding employment or regrouping through a transition as the restaurant closes, we're here," he added.

47.9%

According to Statistics Canada, the employment rate of working-age adults with a hearing disability is 47.9 per cent, which is much lower than for adults without a disability (73.6 per cent).

Signs restaurant at Yonge and Wellesley closed on Dec. 12. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

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A fare inspector watches passengers at the Spadina subway station. The TTC has approved a plan to have undercover fare inspectors on streetcar lines. MARCUS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MENTAL HEALTH

Kids call crisis line more at Christmas

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Adults aren't alone when it comes to feeling stress over the holidays.

New data from Kids Help Phone shows the number of crisis calls increases during the period between Boxing Day and New Year — sometimes by as much as 23 per cent. The severity of calls also increases during the period, with kids making disclosures of depression, self-harm or expressing suicidal thoughts.

For kids and teens who have experienced any form of emotional abuse, the holiday season can be "a triggering time," said Caitlin, a Kids Help Phone counsellor in Toronto.

"One of the reasons for this is because the normal routine is out of whack for these kids," she said. "School is out, their families may be too busy with all the holiday plans or it may be because of too many expectations."

The spike could also be related to kids comparing themselves to their friends and what presents they're getting. While families have different means and celebrate the season differently, that difference can leave kids with "huge emotional needs," Caitlin said.

> **"It may be because of too many expectations.**
> Caitlin, Kids Help Phone

The best way parents can help their kids avoid crisis is to make time for them and have routine conversations that keep them out of isolation, she added

"Let them know that there's always support for whatever they may be going through."

Streetcar spies ahead

INFRASTRUCTURE

Undercover transit officers will be looking for fare cheats

You never know who you're going to sit next to on the TTC. But as of this week, your seatmate could be an undercover transit officer watching to make sure you've paid your fare.

In an effort to push down fare evasion rates, the TTC has given the green light to a plan to use plainclothes special constables to help nab fare cheats on streetcars.

Chief Special Const. Mark Cousins, head of the TTC's transit enforcement unit, said in an interview the covert enforcement officers won't be engaged in "undercover drug takedown stuff," but will be there to point out people who haven't paid to the TTC's uniformed fare inspectors. The inspectors will still be responsible for writing tickets.

According to a report that went before the TTC board on Tuesday, the streetcar network had a fare evasion rate of about 2.7 per cent during the first six months of 2016. That's above the industry standard of 2 per cent.

Fare inspectors are provincial offences officers and have less power than special constables. According to policy changes the TTC board authorized on Tuesday, inspectors will no longer carry batons or handcuffs. The TTC has about 68 fare inspectors, plus a dozen supervisors and administrative staff.

The agency could add more inspectors but it would likely cost more money that it's worth. An additional 20 inspectors could help recoup about $600,000, but would cost about $2 million. Inspectors make about $100,000 a year in salary and benefits.

TTC staff estimate that fare evasion costs the agency $20 million a year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Chief says Legal Aid would welcome an external audit

Legal Aid Ontario president and CEO David Field, whose organization just announced cuts to services due to a $26-million deficit, said he would welcome an external audit of his agency.

The cutbacks on services include no more legal funding for individuals charged with crimes, but who are not facing jail time. The move would affect thousands of people who can't afford a lawyer and who could still be fired, slapped with a hefty fine or have difficulty travelling if convicted of a crime.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

...and this street is the deadliest of all

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS

Changes must be made on Eglinton, says councillor

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Two pedestrians were killed this year at Eglinton Avenue East and Midland. It's one of the few intersections in the city to see more than one death since January. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Eglinton Avenue is officially Toronto's deadliest street.

This year, eight pedestrians have been killed on, or adjacent to, the east-west artery, according to a Metro analysis. No other roadway's tally comes close.

The trail of pedestrian deaths extends as far west as Dufferin Street, but the majority of fatalities along Eglinton occurred in the east, where the road widens to as many as six lanes.

The victims include 63-year-old Grace Fryfogel, killed Oct. 20 at Eglinton and Hanna Road, as well as a construction worker run down Oct. 12 near Midland Avenue and an 81-year-old man on a mobility scooter, killed Oct. 5 at Eglinton and Winter Avenue.

Sadly, the stats didn't come as a surprise to residents and they don't think the city is doing enough to address the problem.

The city's new road safety plan largely ignores Eglinton. Save for a small portion in Etobicoke, speed limits on the road remain untouched, and it's not included in the city's list of pedestrian safety corridors, most of which are located downtown.

"Scarborough is growing. There's more homes, but somehow our roads haven't kept up," said Joy Robertson, president of the Scarborough Residents Unite neighbourhood association.

Robertson said there are too few pedestrian crossings along Eglinton Avenue East, forcing people to walk long distances to cross safely, or risk crossing mid-block.

She's particularly concerned about the area near Midland, where two pedestrians have been killed this year. The neighbourhood is home to a busy strip mall and a high school, "with kids rushing back and forth," she said.

Robertson wants more crosswalks for automated enforcement cameras to stop "drivers turning hastily while people are crossing."

Roger Browne, Toronto's manager of traffic safety, said Eglinton may get a second look as the city reviews the road safety plan in the new year.

The road, especially in the east, is home to some senior care facilities, and if the data shows they're at risk, then Browne said speed limits could be lowered and additional pedestrian infrastructure built.

"The biggest challenge area we're going to dive into is with respect to seniors," Browne said.

75

The average age of pedestrians killed this year along Eglinton Ave.

DATA-DRIVEN

- Although the number of deaths on Eglinton stands out, the problems associated with the roadway are not unique. Every year, dozens of pedestrians in Toronto are killed on major suburban arteries with wide lanes, high speeds and few safe places to cross.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

'It's an evolution, not a war'

Toronto's new transportation chief has a message for drivers: sharing is caring.

"If you own a car, and a car is more convenient for you to get around the city, you want to know that your trip will be safe and reliable," Barbara Gray said Tuesday in her first public comments since arriving in the city nine days ago. "And I want to know that you're sharing the road with other people who make a different choice."

In her new role, Gray will be tasked with managing congestion, improving road closure coordination and ensuring streets and roadways contribute to public space. However, she said overseeing the rollout of the city's new road safety plan will be her top priority.

"The mayor has made it very clear that safety is job number one," she said.

Gray comes to the city from Seattle, where she oversaw a number of initiatives aimed at improving travel for pedestrians and cyclists. She pledged to continue that work in Toronto.

Specifically, Gray spoke about how Seattle has reduced the number of vehicle lanes on some streets to make way for other infrastructure.

"You might expand the sidewalk, you might include a bike lane, you might have a centre turn lane," she said.

Barbara Gray comes from Seattle, where she was a champion of pedestrian and cyclist safety. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

> The mayor has made it very clear that safety is job number one.
> Barbara Gray

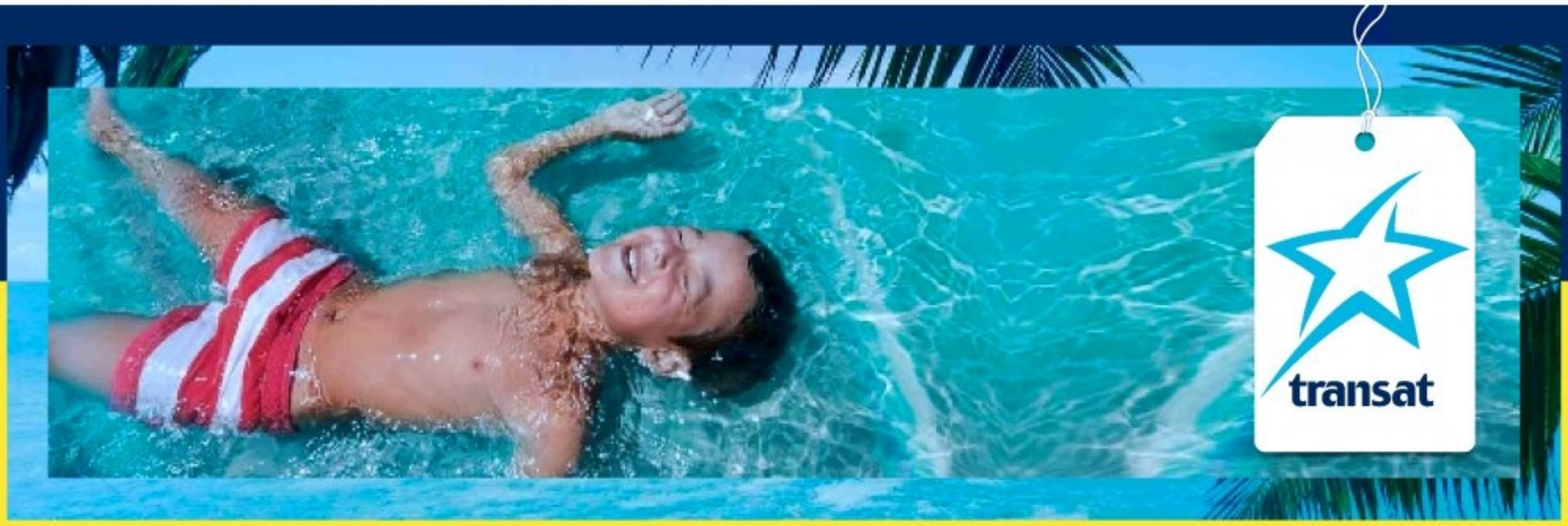
Gray referred to that process as "rechannelization," but in other jurisdictions it's known as a "road diet."

She also noted default speed limits in Seattle are lower than in Toronto — major arterials are capped at 25 miles per hour (40 km/h) — but stopped short of endorsing such a measure here. Instead, she plans to focus on better enforcing existing limits.

"The top-end speeders and the high speeders are the ones causing the most safety challenge for our pedestrians," she said.

Mayor John Tory heaped praise on Gray and was quick to dismiss the notion that giving more space to pedestrians and cyclists constitutes a "war on the car."

"It's an evolution, not a war," he said. "It's the 21st century. Our transportation corridors, which are not expanding in their size, are going to have to be shared to a greater extent." LUKE SIMCOE/METRO



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A special graduation day

EDUCATION

New program designed for refugees who survived horrors

Karam Jamalo did not expect he would be taking part in a graduation ceremony when he was forced to quit school and joined the exodus of refugees to Lebanon after civil war broke out in Syria in 2011.

This month Jamalo, who was resettled here in April by the Canadian government, received his graduation certificate from George Brown College's president, Anne Sado, for completing an inaugural program designed for refugees who survived war, torture and violence.

"This is a very special day. It's our graduation day," said Jamalo. The 24-year-old said he was kidnapped and tortured by pro-Syrian government militant enforcers in Lebanon for fleeing military conscription back home.

"It is a step forward for all of us," he said.

The first group of 18 refugees graduated on Friday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The groundbreaking 15-week program, From Margins to Centre through Education, is a collaborative effort by the college, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) to help migrant youth, whose schooling was interrupted by war, access post-secondary education in Canada.

> We have mental health support, including a CAMH counsellor and a social work student.
> Prof. Jaswant Kaur Bajwa

During the weekly four-hour classes, participants — referred by the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture — learned about credential assessments, got acquainted with Canadian learning styles, reviewed personal skills, and explored study and career options.

"Because of the trauma experience they endured, some of them have issues with trust and attachment. They don't feel safe. Sometimes it affects their cognitive ability to learn and makes it difficult to concentrate," said George Brown Prof. Jaswant Kaur Bajwa, who came up with the program idea and leads the project.

"What is unique is we have mental health support, including a CAMH counsellor and a social work student, in the program. Sometimes, there are triggers that upset them during the class. It has happened."

Mulugeta Abai, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, said education is key to equalizing the socioeconomic gaps between refugees and Canadians.

Unlike other refugees, survivors of war and torture face the extra hurdle of institutional fear as a result of their experience and treatment by authorities, he added.

"Education is something that they can earn and gain through their own effort. Nobody can take that away from them," said Abai.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Accused neurosurgeon to stay in jail into new year

The neurosurgeon from Toronto accused of murdering his wife— a respected family doctor and mother of three— will be held in custody into the new year after making a brief court appearance Tuesday.

Dressed in an orange jumper, Mohammed Shamji, 40, looked solemn and said nothing but his own name while appearing via video in a north Toronto court. His case was put off until Jan. 5. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police charge nine people in alleged $30M fraud

Nine people are facing a total of 42 charges in an alleged fraud police say cost businesses, banks and investors more than $30 million.

York regional police say they began investigating AC Simmonds Group in November 2014 following several complaints from people alleging they had been defrauded. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SATURNA ISLAND

Crew stranded off B.C. coast receives some Christmas cheer

Crew members from the Philippines talk as volunteers deliver food, supplies and gifts to the stranded crew of the Hanjin Scarlet container ship on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The stranded crew of an empty container ship tied up in an international bankruptcy issue received a shipment of donated holiday cheer Tuesday, including a Christmas tree, a 20-kilogram pig and 90 kilograms of barbecue coals.

Several maritime labour groups and members of Victoria's Filipino community gathered up more than a tonne of Christmas provisions for the 16-member crew of the 255-metre Hanjin Scarlet, anchored off Saturna Island, about 70 kilometres northeast of Victoria.

"It's lonely," said sailor Romeo Cabacang from the Philippines. "But all the crew, we are very happy for the early Christmas gift. We are very happy."

Cabacang, 40, who is married with two children in Manilla, said he's been on board the ship for 10 months, but doesn't know when that will change.

The South Korean and Filipino crew members have been technically homeless at sea since August, anchoring for months at a time outside Prince Rupert, Vancouver and the Southern Gulf Islands. They are being paid, but say they can't afford to leave the ship and their jobs.

The ship's captain, Jaewon Lee from South Korea, said his crew is in good shape and is patiently awaiting the bankruptcy issues to be resolved.

He said the crew is not going to shore because they need their rest and want to save money.

"Everybody well. Nothing problem," Lee said in broken English. He added the ship has a solid Internet connection, which allows his crew to stay in touch with their families.

Lee said he expects the crew to roast the pig on Christmas Eve.

The crew cheerfully helped unload the donated goods onto wood pallets which were then hoisted on deck with cargo nets and a crane.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Extra gains, extra pains for musicians

RESEARCH

Holiday concerts can cause repetitive strain injuries

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Dr. Christine Guptill, who plays the oboe, is urging musicians not to overwork themselves this year. KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

Many classical musicians get the same things for Christmas: A lot of extra work and a lot of extra injuries.

Indeed, one occupational therapist at the University of Alberta, who also plays the oboe, is using her experience with musical-induced injuries as inspiration to for new research into the strange spike in injuries that musicians face each year at Christmas.

Christine Guptill said the holiday season puts extra strain on the musically inclined — especially classical musicians in high demand for Christmas themed concerts — and this often leads to injuries.

"Just imagine you were working out. You have your regular workout routine and then all of a sudden someone tells you (that) you should be working out an extra 40 hours a week," said Guptill.

Guptill said musicians in general face more work-related injuries than people in most other occupations, and those injuries peak this time of year.

Most, like tendinitis and nerve compression, are related to repetitive strain. Some, like focal dystonia, are almost unique to musicians.

"A lot of musicians get heavily into what they're doing and they're not necessarily athletic types, and so they didn't necessarily get the background they should have in how you can protect yourself from these things," said Guptill, who has suffered several injuries as an oboist.

A recent Australian study showed 84 per cent of musicians had physical problems related to playing their instrument at some point in their career.

Popular shows like Nutcracker will run multiple times in a weekend over the holidays, and while the dancers will often take shifts, musicians will not.

With a tendency toward freelancing in the music world, most take on extra work whenever they can get it.

Guptill said it's important to have good posture when practising, not to spend too long hammering over the same difficult passage, and to take frequent breaks.

"About every half hour, people should be taking a five-minute break. If you're injured it should be more frequent," she said.

Guptill added that exercise outside of music is important as well — so if musicians can eke out any spare time they should consider spending it on yoga, jogging or swimming.

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Recognize those with the cameras

Eduardo Lima
Metro | Toronto

There's a lot I'll never know about the photographers who captured the assassination of Russian Ambassador Andrei Karlov.

I don't know how brave they are, and I can't imagine what went through their minds as Mevlut Mert Altintas opened fire at a run-of-the-mill press event.

What I do know is this: Bravery is not the only factor involved in being able to take pictures in an unexpected situation. It's also professionalism.

The settings on their cameras were perfect. The framing is almost cinematic. And they didn't flinch even once. Standing less than five metres away from a man who could have taken their lives, Burhan Ozbilici and Yavuz Alatan held their ground and did their jobs.

As photographers, we love taking pictures and as photojournalists, we relish the opportunity to record history. There's an invisible switch that photographers flip once a camera is in our hands. It makes us aware of everything around us and it makes them eager to climb trees, jump fences, lay flat on our stomachs, just for the sake of a picture.

Ozbilici and Alatan will both be likely candidates to win a prize from the World Press Photo Foundation next year. But, beyond that, they drew attention this week to the thousands of photographers who've dedicated their lives to making the pictures that make history.

Bravery aside, their excellence deserves our recognition.

Eduardo Lima is Metro Toronto's chief photographer. He has worked on projects in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Middle East and won multiple awards for his work.

Members of the Turkish forces honour guard carry the coffin of Russian Ambassador to Turkey, Andrei Karlov, who was assassinated Monday. EMRAH GUREL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Assassination could bring nations closer

DIPLOMACY

Russia, Turkey could see age of co-operation

The assassination of Russia's ambassador to Turkey could actually bring the two regional powers closer together, with Russia reaping political benefits by arguing that it has paid a high price for fighting terrorism as Turkey, embarrassed by its security breaches, increasingly co-ordinates with Russia in neighbouring Syria.

The two nations were already trying to resolve their differences over the war in Syria since Turkey shot down a Russian military jet along the Syrian border last year.

The measured reactions of their leaders to the killing Monday night of Ambassador Andrei Karlov by a Turkish policeman in Ankara shows they want to stay on the path toward reconciliation.

> **Moscow will undoubtedly milk the opportunity.**
> Dimitar Bechev

The prospect of closer ties between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could have implications for the West, which has had contentious relations with both leaders and is also trying to engineer a solution to the Syrian war and the millions of refugees it has created.

While both Russia and Turkey are involved in Syria, Russia is the senior partner in any deal-making in a conflict that has sent several million refugees across the border into Turkey, straining its resources and economy.

Analyst Dimitar Bechev said Russia could now have additional leverage and extract concessions from Turkey, including on Syrian issues, following the ambassador's death.

"No doubt, in public, Russia will second whatever explanation the Turks produce to account for the attack. In private, however, there will be a price tag," Bechev wrote on a blog run by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"Moscow has the higher ground and will undoubtedly milk the opportunity to the best of its abilities," he wrote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO

29 dead in blast

An explosion ripped through Mexico's best-known fireworks market on the northern outskirts of the capital Tuesday, killing at least 29\ people, injuring scores more and sending a huge plume of charcoal-grey smoke billowing into the sky.

Police announced the toll from the afternoon blast at the open-air San Pablito Market in Tultepec.

"My condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this accident and my wishes for a quick recovery for the injured," said President Enrique Pena Nieto via Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN

Daesh claims truck attack

Daesh claimed responsibility Tuesday for a truck attack on a crowded Berlin Christmas market that German authorities said came right out of the extremist group's playbook, inflicting mass casualties on a soft target fraught with symbolic meaning.

The Monday night attack on the market by the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the heart of former West Berlin left 12 dead and 48 injured, the first mass casualty attack by Islamic extremists carried out on German soil. German security forces were still hunting for the perpetrator.

The claim of responsibility carried on Daesh's Amaq news agency described the man seen fleeing from the truck as "a soldier" of Daesh who "carried out the attack in response to calls for targeting citizens of the Crusader coalition."

Prosecutors said they had released a man picked up near the scene of the attack, initially suspected of driving the truck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

Canadian beauty queen won't be silenced on atrocities

Anastasia Lin says when she first learned about allegations the Chinese government was harvesting organs from religious prisoners to fuel its transplant industry, she decided to use an unconventional platform to raise awareness.

Lin spoke out about the alleged plight of Falun Gong practitioners in China while taking part in the 2015 Miss World Canada beauty pageant, which she won. Since then, she has become an outspoken critic of the Chinese government.

"To not do anything is just so wrong," said Lin, 26, who is based in Toronto but spent her teenage years in Vancouver after emigrating from China with her mother.

"Public pressure works. We have way more leverage than we think we do," she said. "We might think that China is this big, tough bully that just doesn't listen to anyone. But that's not true."

Falun Gong is a spiritual practice that emerged in China in the early 1990s, but by the end of the decade it had prompted a crackdown by the Chinese Communist Party. Falun Gong spokesman Joel Chipkar alleges the persecution was prompted by the organization's unwillingness to cede control to the Chinese government.

Reports from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International have emerged of thousands of imprisoned Falun Gong followers being executed for their body organs.

Multiple requests for comment to the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa and the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver went unanswered.

Lin said she was originally inspired to take a stand on the issue by the advocacy work of former Miss World Canada Nazanin Afshin-Jam, who is married to former federal attorney general Peter MacKay.

In 2015, Lin was declared persona non grata by the Chinese government and barred from entering China when she tried to travel there to represent Canada in that year's Miss World pageant.

Miss World 2016 took place in Washington, D.C., and this year Lin was able to take part.

"My one goal was not the tiara," Lin said. "I just wanted to be on Chinese television. ... If they can see me on stage they will know (I have not given up), so neither should they."

She also wanted to be seen by her father, who she said has been barred from leaving China because of her activism.

Miss World 2016 wrapped up last weekend, with the contestant from Puerto Rico taking the crown.

Chipkar, a Toronto-based spokesman for Falun Gong, applauded Lin for helping shed light on the organ-harvesting allegations.

"Any awareness to these crimes is like a light bulb that comes on in a dark room," Chipkar said. "As soon as the light comes on, the darkness disappears."

Anastasia Lin TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BlackBerry has reached deals with partners who will design, manufacture and distribute phones that use BlackBerry's software in most of the world. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BlackBerry's head hails shift in focus

TECHNOLOGY

Most revenue now comes from software and services

BlackBerry's CEO shrugged off a $117-million US third-quarter loss, saying the former smartphone maker turned software firm is no longer in turn-around mode and will grow its software revenue faster than the market next year.

"Everything that we have to do in order to address the, kind of, the downdraft of the business, we addressed," John Chen told reporters Tuesday.

The Waterloo, Ont.-based firm completed a number of significant milestones as part of its strategic transformation to exit the hardware business, he said.

> **We believe we can do a little better than that.**
> John Chen

It inked two deals with partners that will design, manufacture and distribute phones that use BlackBerry's software in most of the world. A third one is in the works for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Chen said. BlackBerry receives royalties, which could boost its mobility solutions revenue that has struggled amid lacklustre hardware sales.

The company is also trying to position itself in the burgeoning market of self-driving vehicles, and on Monday it opened a research centre for autonomous cars in Ottawa.

It has also announced a new platform, BlackBerry Secure, that integrates all of the company's recent acquisitions and intends to help companies reliably manage their current and future connectivity needs, like keeping tabs on all their devices.

Still, the transformation has yet to eliminate BlackBerry's losses before adjustments.

BlackBerry, which reports in U.S. dollars, says its latest quarterly loss amounted to 22 cents per share. That compared with a loss of $89 million or 17 cents per share a year ago.

Revenue was $289 million, down from $548 million a year earlier. With adjustments, revenue for the quarter was $301 million. The majority of adjusted revenue — about 55 per cent — came from BlackBerry's new focus of software and services, which brought in $164 million, an increase of $8 million from the previous quarter and $10 million from the same quarter last year.

It wasn't enough to offset declines in other areas.

But Chen remains confident the company's new focus will pay off, anticipating 30 per cent growth in software and services for the full financial year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MERGER

Facebook accused of misleading watchdog

The European Commission is investigating whether Facebook gave misleading information about its takeover of mobile messaging service WhatsApp two years ago.

The Commission, the EU's merger and anti-trust watchdog, is concerned that Facebook can match its users' accounts with WhatsApp user accounts. The company said in 2014 that it could not do this. But Facebook's August terms of service and privacy update suggest it can, according to the Commission.

"The Commission's preliminary view is that Facebook gave us incorrect or misleading information during the investigation into its acquisition of WhatsApp. Facebook now has the opportunity to respond," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

Facebook could face fines of up to 1 per cent of its turnover if those suspicions are confirmed.

In a statement, Facebook said it respects the Commissioner's process and is "confident that a full review of the facts will confirm Facebook has acted in good faith."

"We've consistently provided accurate information about our technical capabilities and plans, including in submissions about the WhatsApp acquisition and in voluntary briefings before WhatsApp's privacy policy update this year," Facebook said.

The August update could allow a link-up between WhatsApp phone numbers and Facebook user identities, which could help Facebook offer better "friend" suggestions or display more relevant ads on the Facebook page of a WhatsApp user.

Such EU probes do not imply guilt, but they give companies the chance to examine relevant documents, reply in writing, or request an oral hearing.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 21, 2016

JESSICA ALLEN ON SILVER-SCREEN ESCAPISM

I know a thing or two about nostalgia and I am sensitive to others using my weakness to emotionally manipulate me.

My Christmas tree lights conked out the other night. They were a multi-coloured set that cast a soft, foggy glow, like the tree lights from my childhood, probably because they are literally the tree lights from my childhood. I can't bring myself to replace them with those new, garishly bright (and safer) LED lights. So the tree sits in darkness.

This all goes to say that I know a thing or two about nostalgia. Yes, I take it too seriously, which is why I am sensitive to others using my weakness to emotionally manipulate me. For example: Stranger Things, the thrilling sci-fi Netflix series set in the '80s that provided a quick fix of that decade's greatest cultural hits. But when the buzz wore off, it felt a little superficial — like high-end audio equipment that's deliberately designed to look like a radio from the '20s. That's nostalgia in a nutshell: It makes you melancholy for a time you'll never get back, or even for a time you didn't exist in.

And now there's La La Land, which opens on Christmas Day, to contend with. Even if you don't follow award blogs, you know that the film, written and directed by Damien Chazelle, is —alongside Moonlight and Manchester By the Sea — an Oscar contender for best picture. But when the masses tell me I'm going to love something, my knee-jerk reaction is to hate it.

The whole Manichean world of comics was a response to the same social conditions that gave us Busby Berkeley.

"Though bathed in affection for the song-and-dance magic of vintage Hollywood" Brian D. Johnson of Maclean's recently wrote, "it has a keen contemporary edge. As both a musical and rom-com, La La Land subverts as many conventions as it fetishizes, while wrapping its love story around the frustration of two artists holding out for truth and beauty amid a showbiz world enslaved to money."

"We'll see about that, Brian," I thought to myself just before a recent screening of the film. I stewed in my seat thinking about all the ways it would cheapen my love for the classic films I knew it would reference. Like Bringing up Baby and Casablanca, which were both shot on the Warner Bros. lot where Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, works as a barista. Ryan Gosling plays Sebastian, a struggling musician who dreams of preserving the great American art of jazz. He introduces Mia, who equates jazz to Kenny G, to the artistry of Kenny Clark, among others.

I successfully willed myself to hate La La Land for approximately 30 seconds, when I looked down and saw my feet tapping to the music. And although I was distracted by the overly produced dubbing during the big group musical numbers, not to mention Gosling having at least one hand in his pocket at all times — even when he's playing the piano — I liked it. It was magical, like everyone said it would be, and the unexpected ending is seeped in ennui, just like my Christmas tree lights.

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone in a scene from La La Land.
LIONSGATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And here's the thing: I did feel manipulated, but somehow, with the cinema lights low, I didn't mind La La Land taking the lead in transporting me far away from the cynicism of 2016.

Chazelle is not clairvoyant: He's been trying to get La La Land made for five years, so the timing of its release this year, which by most accounts has been awful, is coincidental. But it's telling he that he mined vintage Hollywood to soothe a culture desperate to escape.

The genius of Hollywood filmmakers in the '30s was that they found beautiful ways to offer escape from the reality of the Depression and the rise of fascism. Audiences were enchanted by Fred and Ginger, and Shirley Temple, while socially realistic movies, like Charlie Chaplin's City Lights and Modern Times, made them smile despite the darkness.

For the last decade, the dominant form of escape has been the superhero-super-effects-big-budget-CGI extravaganza. They don't bear much resemblance to an angel-faced child singing about the good ship Lolly Pop, but Superman, Batman and the whole Manichean world of action comics was a response to the same social conditions that gave birth to Busby Berkeley's spinning stages.

Our world — in which a literal super villain stirs up hatred on Twitter from a fortress of solitude in Gotham City while he waits to take the highest office in the land — may be no less complicated. In fact, our purveyors of escape might have to work harder.

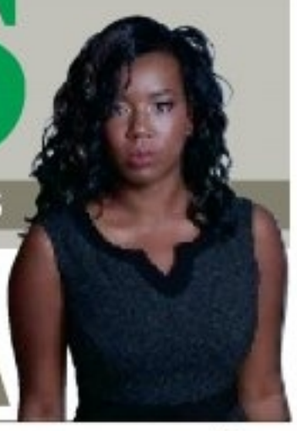
"During the Depression, when the spirit of the people is lower than at any other time," President Franklin Roosevelt said in 1934, "it is a splendid thing that for just 15 cents an American can go to a movie and look at the smiling face of a baby and forget his troubles."

The ticket price is higher 82 years later. But I think the sentiment is the same, especially on Christmas Day when so many go see a movie to escape everything from their credit card statements to racist Uncle Gary who's staying for the holidays.

The lights go down, and it's magic.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA



Trump politics aren't coming to Canada — they're already here

Donald Trump is already in Canada, and he can be found the heart and minds of Canadians. There's a tendency to think that Canada is safe from such phenomena. But based on the attitudes of Canadians, not only are we not free from it but also we're susceptible.

In Canada, the xenophobic and racist attitudes that propelled Trump aren't far beneath our "sunny ways" and "refugees welcome" surface.

Forum Research released a survey which found that of 1,304 Canadians, 41 per cent have an "unfavourable" feeling about one of the following groups: Muslims, First Nations, South Asians, Jews and black people. The use of the word "unfavourable" even feels like a way to shield racism, as if the KKK were merely an organ of unfavourable opinion.

Racist attitudes though aren't just hidden in seemingly innocuous phrasing, they're evident in what is perceived to be true. An exhaustive poll of global attitudes found that Canadians think that Muslims constitute 18 per cent of our population when, in fact, they're only three per cent of the country. Despite our progressive and multicultural self-image, Canadians vastly overestimate the population of Muslims. For example, Canadians think that in 2020 a full 26 per cent of the country will be Muslim when the population is expected to stay about the same as now. This notion of a vast-yet-ultimately-mythical population is what politicians of the Trump-Farage-Leitch ilk rely on.

A CBC-Angus Reid poll found that 68 per cent of respondents felt that minorities should be doing more to fit in with mainstream society instead of keeping their own customs and values. In this, we are no better than our American neighbours. When the same questions was put to Americans, only 53 per cent felt the same way.

There is no question that racists in Canada have been emboldened by the events in the U.S. Racialized citizens across the country have been sharing their own stories of being attacked based on their (perceived) race. Last week, our colleague Irene Kuan shared how a man on the subway told her to "go back to Hong Kong." She is from Toronto.

The question is how do we prevent racial resentments from upsetting our democracy? Our institutions — schools, police, media, etc. — must acknowledge that they help perpetuate those attitudes. (Why does my industry only report the race of criminals when they are not white?)

Finally, white Canadians, including ethnic whites, need to publicly speak about their privileges and challenges. Racism thrives on asking non-whites to prove and adapt to their oppression while requiring little labour from those who most benefit.

Racism — overt and covert — remains pervasive. These surveys are proof of our past, but the attitudes found within need not be our future.

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Light exercise may help concussed kids recover faster, CHEO's Dr. Roger Zemek finds in study

Mulled wine and hot chocolate: Better together or a sludgy mess?

Some things just go together: Caramel and salt, tomato and oregano, and, according to this season's latest food fad, red wine and hot chocolate. But does this best-of-both-worlds beverage deserve its social-media star status? We enter our test kitchen to find out. GENNA BUCK/METRO

Armed with half a pound of chocolate, a bottle of red wine, and three colleagues as guinea pigs, the Metro Life staff set out to mix up our own version of 2016's trendy holiday drink: red wine hot chocolate.

It's exactly what it sounds like — a combination of two beloved winter warmers which, for some reason, no one thought to put together before now. By the end of our experiment, we had a better idea of why.

First, we mulled two cups of red wine (Hardy's Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon) with two heaping teaspoons of sugar, a few orange slices and a handful of spices — cinnamon sticks, freshly grated nutmeg, juniper, star anise and ancho chili.

In another pot, we heated a litre of two-per-cent milk to steaming and slowly stirred in 200g of chopped dark chocolate (70 per cent cocoa).

Once both were piping hot, we strained the wine into the chocolate mixture. And that's when things started to go a little sideways.

No matter how much we stirred and sieved, the chocolate never fully melted, leaving us a drink with a curdled, chalky texture and a bracing, acidic taste: not exactly luxurious. Though, according to our section editor Emina Gamulin, "It grows on you."

We agreed the beverage would be better with a sweet milk chocolate, and a lot less of it. In a moment of inspiration, we added a healthy glug of whipping cream to one of the mugs and zapped it in the microwave. That tasted more like something we'd want to drink in front of a roaring fire.

As the instagrammers say, this treat is #sorich, but if you'd like to gild the lily, whipped cream or marshmallows would be an ultimate garnish. And it's the holidays, so why not both?

Metro Life's Emina Gamulin and Genna Buck made the drink that's been praised by food bloggers, Instagrammers — even the New York Times and Cosmo mag. METRO

INITIAL THOUGHTS	VERDICT
Vicky Mochama Metro's daily columnist was intrigued. "Is this what the kids on Instagram are drinking?"	Not impressed. "It has a porridge-like consistency."
Luke Simcoe Our senior reporter turned down whipped cream and marshmallows: "Nothing you put on this is going to make me like it more."	"Wine and milk, together at last? That's just not a thing people say."
May Warren Metro's city reporter is an adventurous eater. "I'm excited," she said before our taste test.	May pulled a pained face and said, "so disappointing."

TECHNOLOGY

Paws for a selfie #WiskersOnFleek

Kris Abel
For Metro Canada

Among cats, it's curiosity that leads to the best selfies.

That's according to the makers of Candid Catmera, an iPhone and iPad app that uses virtual fish, mice, and laser pointers and others treats to entice your feline to come play in front of your mobile device.

"I like the one with the can-opener, opening up the can of food," says Jen Mete, the Halifax-based producer who worked on the app for Current Studios.

Getting a cat to stand in front of the lens is one thing, but in order to make sure the camera catches them when they're looking the right way, the app uses very sophisticated software.

"We affectionately refer to it as feline facial recognition," explains Mete, "it automatically takes a series of photos and analyzes the characteristics of the subject and only saves the ones of your cat to the gallery."

So you can take a selfie with your cat, for example, but your cat has to always be in the shot. It's a cat-only app.

"Like if I put my face up to it, it might take a photo, but it won't save the photo because after it goes into the cat recognition filter, it'll decide that I am not a cat," explains Mete.

It's not just the need for pointed ears and whiskers, the software is built to recognize fur on faces too, but again, only feline ones.

"People ask 'Why don't we do it for dogs?' well, actually it's a little trickier because dogs all have very different characteristics," says Mete, "but whereas cats all have fairly similar characteristics, so that really helped while building up our database of traits to track."

Once the app is running on your device, the app will snap cat selfies even if you're not home and send them to your phone for approval and sharing on social media.

For every copy of the app sold, $1 goes to the SPCA whose cats helped test the technology.

"We spent a couple of days with them, testing out the app, and what I found pretty exciting is that they actually enjoyed playing with the app," says Mete. "I'm a huge advocate for animal welfare and it hits me on both sides."

Launched in time for the holidays, the creators are looking forward to seeing what people do with it. Asked if the feline facial recognition system might have trouble with costumes Mete is confident the app will still work.

"As long as they don't cover the face, if they put a costume on their cat, a hotdog or a unicorn or something, as long as the app can still see the characteristics of their face, it should be fine."

GET SNAPPING

- The app costs $2.79, available at candidcatmera.com
- $1 of each app sold will go to the SPCA, whose cats helped test the technology
- If you download it, share your cat selfies with us at scene@metronews.ca

CAT SELFIE GALLERY AT METRONEWS.CA

Candid Catmera is an app that entices cats to play on an iPad, then takes a selfie of the pet. If the owner is not home, the app will send them a pic. CONTRIBUTED

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Winning starts
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Weaving a basket of festive delights

Adding cream cheese to your cookie dough helps to keep your Christmas cookies softer and lighter in texture with a tangier flavour too. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE

Nutty cookies forgiving for those without nimble fingers

Chocolatey and nutty with a fairly light texture thanks to the cream cheese, this recipe is adapted from this year's Better Homes and Gardens' Christmas Cookies issue.

They were originally pinwheel shapes but the basket shape that comes from folding all the cookie flaps is also lovely. This shape is also more forgiving for those who don't have nimble fingers.

Cookie tip: Experiment with cream cheese in cookie dough by replacing 1/4 cup of the butter with the same amount of full fat cream cheese to get a softer, lighter texture with a soft tanginess.

Chocolate-Hazelnut Baskets

Makes 32 cookies.

Ingredients:

- 32 whole shelled hazelnuts
- 3/4 cup (185 mL) room temperature unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) softened cream cheese
- 2/3 cup (160 mL) granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla extract
- 2 cups (500 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2/3 cup (160 mL) Nutella, chilled in fridge

Directions:

1. Spread hazelnuts in a shallow baking pan. Bake for 5 to 10 minutes, or until nuts are slightly browned and fragrant, shaking pan halfway to prevent burning. Let cool and rub off skins with paper towel. Set aside.

2. In a stand mixer with a paddle attachment at medium speed or a large bowl with a mixer on medium, beat butter and cream cheese till fluffy, about 30 seconds. Add sugar, baking powder and salt. Mix for another 2 minutes, scraping down sides of bowl. Mix in egg and vanilla until well-incorporated. Divide dough in half.

3. Roll each dough ball into a 10-inch (25 cm) square between sheets of parchment paper on a clean work surface. Cut out 16, 2 1/2-inch (6 cm) squares. Place squares 1-inch (2.5 cm) apart on a lined baking sheet. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

4. With a knife, cut 1-inch (2.5 cm) slits from each corner to centre. Spoon 1/2 teaspoon of Nutella into centre of each cookie. Fold every tip into centre to form a basket shape. Lightly press toasted hazelnut into centre where corners meet.

5. Bake at 350F (175 C) for 10 to 15 minutes or until edges are firm and edges are slightly puffed. Cool for 5 minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

6. Store in an airtight container for up to a week or freeze for up to a month.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Christmas caffeine kick

Cozying up with a festive drink can be like eating more than your fair share of dessert!

PICK THIS

Starbucks Grande Holiday Spice Flat White (with 2% milk)

Calories 240
Fat 7g
Saturated Fat 4.5g
Sugar 30g

SKIP THIS

Starbucks Grande Eggnog Latte (with whole milk)

Calories 480
Fat 21g
Saturated Fat 13g
Sugar 52g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent to five Chapman's Vanilla Frozen Yogurt Bars in fat.

Seasonal beverages are a favourite part of the holidays for many, but beware of drinking your calories and fat. Eggnog is primarily made with whole milk or cream and egg yolks, which is loaded with saturated fats. The Holiday Spice Flat White gives you that festive flavour and feel with about half the calories and sugar, and a fraction of the fat and saturated fat.

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

Three perfect partners for the big bird

What wine goes with turkey? When you write about booze, you hear that question more than White Christmas at seasonal get-togethers.

Truth be told, the big bird is pretty accommodating when it comes to a liquid partner. The ideal match is actually less about the meat and more about the side dishes which, on December 25th, can be anything from herbaceous and earthy to sweet and tangy.

Here are three perfect, all-purpose pairings.

Moselland 2014 Ars Vitis Riesling ($11.95-$15.99): One for those who like a hint of sweetness. Easy-drinking, and in-law friendly, with its cool window label design this German drinks as good as it looks.

Lindemans 2014 Bin 65 Chardonnay ($10.95-$12.99): Dry and lightly oaked, it's a Down Under white layered with bright tropical fruit and balanced acidity.

Kim Crawford 2015 South Island Pinot Noir ($19.95-$21.99): For the red lovers, a New Zealander that combines ripe, New World flavours with old-school, European sophistication.

From me to you, have a safe and happy holidays.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

FOODIE TRAILS

Growing appetite for gastronomy getaways

There's no better way to soak up the culture of a country than through its food with global gastronomic festivals drawing more foodies eager to combine noshing and sipping while viewing the sights.

"Celebrity chefs and TV programs have played a huge role in gastronomy being a huge motivation for today's travellers," says Timothy Chan of G Adventures, a travel company founded by Bruce Poon Tip in Toronto in 1990. Canadian experts are leading food-centric tours to exotic locales.

Naomi Duguid has spent 25 years researching the cultural and culinary aspects of far-flung countries. Her most recent book, Taste of Persia, chronicles the rich heritage and culinary cross-influences in the region.

"You understand things through the food," says Duguid, who calls a tour she's leading to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand a "combo cooking-food-shopping-eating immersion course."

G Adventures is introducing 2017 trips to a Naples pizza fest, a Belgian beer tour and La Tomatina festival in Valencia, Spain.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baking away the grey days of winter

RECIPE

Even the scent of these simple savoury scones will lift mood

Long, grey winter days are the best times to get back into baking.

It's too cold to go out, so you've got time to kill around the house, plus the wonderful smell of warm breads and cakes will put even the biggest hater of winter into a cheerful mood again.

Daphna Rabinovitch's recipe for savoury scones from her book The Baker In Me make for a real breakfast treat.

These delectable scones are so easy to make and the only drawback is that you'll have a hard time resisting the urge to keep them all to yourself.

Once you've got this recipe down, try subbing in different fillings.

Perhaps a rosemary and sundried tomato with pecorino, dill and cheddar, or whatever herbs and vegetables are left over from holiday dinners.

Gruyère, Prosciutto and Chive Scones

Makes 12 scones

Ingredients:

- 2-1/3 cups (580 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) cold, unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 3/4 cup (180 mL) cold buttermilk
- 1 cold large egg
- 3/4 cup (180 mL) shredded Gruyère
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped prosciutto or cooked bacon
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) chopped chives

These savoury scones make for a delectable breakfast treat. KARON LIU/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat.

2. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and black pepper in a food processor fitted with blade attachment to combine ingredients.

3. Add butter and pulse until butter is cut into small pea-sized chunks. (Alternatively, use a large bowl to mix everything and use a pastry cutter or two knives to cut butter into pea-sized chunks.) Transfer mixture to a large bowl.

4. In a small bowl, whisk together buttermilk and egg. Pour over flour mixture along with cheese, prosciutto and chives. Toss with a fork until mixture is thoroughly moistened. Some flour may not be fully incorporated, that's OK.

5. Transfer dough to a clean work surface and knead gently until dough just forms a moist, cohesive ball. Pat dough down to a rectangle that is 8-by-5 inches (20-by-12 cm) long and 1-inch (2.5 cm) high.

6. With a knife or pastry cutter, cut rectangle in half lengthwise. Cut each half into 6 triangles. Transfer scones to lined baking sheet.

7. Bake in centre of oven for 16 to 18 minutes, until scones are golden and baked through. Cool scones on a wire rack for at least 5 minutes before serving.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE

Canapes save on holiday hassle

When it comes to planning party menus, we often think the most special dishes are the most complicated ones, with exotic and expensive ingredients. But often, it's the classic recipes that rely on familiar flavours that your guests will remember.

Food trends are cyclical, and right now, to the benefit of party hosts and chefs, diners are craving unfussy recipes that rely on the quality of its ingredients. This party classic for prosciutto and melon canapes are a quick-and-easy small bite that will shine on your holiday table.

A canape is a small, one-or-two bite hors d'oeuvre, usually consisting of a piece of bread or cracker topped with, well, anything. They are great for parties, since they are not too filling and easy to eat when one hand is occupied by a glass of champagne. And for the host, they are a breeze to make during the busy holiday season.

You can make toppings ahead of time, like chutneys or caramelized onions, or even rely on prepared ingredients with great flavour combinations. Brie and fig jam on crackers, for example, needs no preparation.

Prosciutto, a salty cured ham from Italy, and melon are a classic combination. Thanks to our global food market, sweet cantaloupe and honey dew melons can be found year-round, and their brightness reminds us that there is some warm sunshine following the cold winter.

This party classic will shine on your table. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A slice of prosciutto adds a savory twist and a satisfying texture. We like to spread our soft white bread canape base with a little bit of mascarpone cheese before topping it, but you could even use a soft goat cheese or an herbed spreadable fresh cheese.

This canape relies on flavour from the melon. Look for melons with no stem attached, since that means it was picked mature.

Prosciutto and Melon Canape

Servings information.

Ingredients:

- 8 very thin slices prosciutto (about 5 ounces)
- 30 (1 1/2-inch-diamater) round white bread canape bases, toasted
- 5 ounces mascarpone cheese, or as needed
- 30 pieces cantaloupe, cut into medium dice, or scooped into 1/2-inch balls
- 30 mint leaves

Directions:

1. Fold the prosciutto to fit the canape bases.

2. To assemble the canapes, spread the canape with some of the mascarpone cheese and top with a piece of prosciutto.

3. Pipe a small mound of mascarpone in the centre of each canape and top with cut melon. Top each canape with a mint leaf.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jemal Thompson, a youth ambassador with the Children's Aid Foundation. CONTRIBUTED

Supporting our at-risk youth

For thousands of former foster kids across Canada, the holidays can stir up feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Having transitioned out of the child welfare system at ages 18 or 19, many of these youth have little to no contact with their birth families and are left alone, struggling to move beyond past traumas, such as abuse and neglect, triggered by the holiday season.

"The holidays can be a really lonely time," says Jemal Thompson, a former youth in care and current ambassador with the Children's Aid Foundation. Although inclusive programs, like the Children's Aid Foundation's Holiday Season Celebration, exist for youth in care and their foster families, opportunities for young people to bond with others they can relate to once they leave care are very limited.

"It's difficult for youth who haven't been able to form any close relationships," says Jemal. "I've lost friends and family members to suicide throughout the month of December. A lot of people get so caught up in their own traditions that they don't focus on people who need their support."

By supporting the Children's Aid Foundation's Hope for the Holidays program, you can ensure youth like Jemal feel cared for during this festive season.

Your support will help to spread warmth in a variety of ways throughout the city, including a holiday drop-in that offers youth from care support and companionship on Dec. 24 and 25 and travel assistance to visit loved ones so they don't have to spend the holidays alone.

Your gift will also support local youth throughout the year and allow them to reach their greatest potential. To donate or learn more, visit cafdn.org/hope2016 or call (416) 923-0924.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Stewart's stairway to holiday heaven

THE SHOW: It's a Wonderful Life
THE MOMENT: The staircase

George Bailey (James Stewart) has just returned from seeing how bleak a George-less existence would look. He bursts into his ramshackle house and spies his children at the top of the staircase.

"Kids!" he bellows, and though it's only one word, you would know in the dark that the voice was Jimmy Stewart's. He starts up the steps. The newel post comes off in his hand. That once frustrated him. This time he kisses it.

His long legs take three stairs at a time, so he appears to fly upward. A second later he jogs back down, covered in children, emitting a small, staccato giggle as he goes.

Look, we all know the rap on this movie, which turned 70 yesterday. It was Stewart's first picture after five years away, including 20 months on the Second World War's front lines, and (according to the new book Mission: Jimmy Stewart and the Fight for Europe) he was suffering from PTSD. Many critics see it as a soppy panacea, a coating of treacle to disguise George's — and by extension, our — bitter disappointments.

George Bailey's iconic staircase embrace. CONTRIBUTED

Yes, but so what? I think most people end up living smaller lives than the ones they dream of. I think we get some of what we want and learn to live without the rest.

What matters to me is that every time I hear that "Kids!" followed by that giggle — and I've heard it at least 40 times — my heart thumps. It's one of the trustiest, truest movie moments I know.

It's a Wonderful Life airs Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. on CTV as well as other channels.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

IT'S A BOY BABY JOY FOR FIRST COUPLE OF BOLLYWOOD
Popular Bollywood couple Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan say they have been blessed with a baby boy. The couple (pictured here at a wedding last year) announced the birth of their son in a Mumbai hospital in a tweet Tuesday. While Taimur Ali Khan Pataudi is the first child of 36-year-old Kareena Kapoor Khan, 46-year-old Saif Ali Khan already has a son and a daughter from a previous marriage. The couple belong to prominent Bollywood families. STRDEL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

JUST MARRIED?

Robbie gives wedding rumours the ring finger

Margot Robbie has responded to wedding rumours by giving the finger on Instagram — the ring finger, that is.

The actress posted a picture of a big diamond on her extended ring finger on the photo-sharing platform Monday. She also appeared to be wearing a white dress in the picture, which shows her kissing a bearded man.

INSTAGRAM

Several British tabloids have reported that the 26-year-old Robbie married director Tom Ackerley over the weekend in her native Australia.

Robbie is best known for her roles in The Wolf of Wall Street and Suicide Squad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news

Kia's dedicated hybrid sets Guinness World Record for fuel mileage

Strong enough for most jobs

REVIEW

Ridgeline's driving dynamics can't be beat

Stephen Elmer
AutoGuide.com

Towing 5,000 pounds (2,268 kilograms) isn't what it used to be. The weight of steel and wood hasn't changed but the towing capabilities and capacities of the vehicles responsible for moving them sure have.

We have half-ton trucks that can pull about 5,500 kg, heavy-duty pickups that can move almost 14,000 kg and a new crop of midsize trucks that are as capable as last decade's half-tons. For most hauling needs, today's midsize pickup is more than enough, and with Honda's redesigned 2017 Ridgeline, you get a unique proposition in the segment.

Honda rates the Ridgeline to tow 2,268 kg, falling short of the Toyota Tacoma's 3,084-kg max rating and the Chevy Colorado's max rating of 3,493 kg, though in the payload department, the Ridgeline stacks up well. It is the only midsize pickup to use a multi-link independent rear suspension, rather than a leaf spring setup.

Canadian Ridgelines get all-wheel drive as standard equipment.

Spec for spec, Honda's small pickup is about on par with the competition on most fronts, though it is the tow rating that falls short. Even if you're not pulling the limit every time you tow, having that extra capacity means that you're not stressing your truck as much when you pull.

So can the Ridgeline actually pull at its limit with confidence? We hitched up a large four-place snowmobile trailer that weighs in just shy of the Ridgeline's max capacity.

Easily the best part of the towing experience with the Ridgeline is the way the suspension soaks up all the weight with little issue. Despite the rear end squatting, the front wheels didn't feel light and the nose wasn't pointing straight up into the air. Side-to-side movement felt controlled, and even the trailer's weight couldn't push the truck around.

This translates into the cabin with nice, planted steering feel and little to no torque steer thanks in part to the all-wheel drive.

If the towing experience ended there, the Ridgeline would leave with a stellar report card. Unfortunately there are other parts of the package that are important as well, namely the brakes and the engine.

So it may not be the heavy lifter among its peers, but there is one aspect of the Ridgeline that is second to none: unladen driving dynamics. Thanks to a combination of factors including its unibody construction and independent suspension, the Ridgeline drives like a big Honda Accord on the road, offering absolutely none of the stiff, choppy ride most body-on-frame trucks have.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 HONDA RIDGELINE

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.5L V6
Power: 280 hp and 262 lb-ft of torque
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
Fuel Economy: 12.8 L/100 km city, 9.5 L/100 km highway, 11.3 L/100 km combined
Price: Starts at $36,590 (destination included)

LOVE IT

- Stable dynamics with weight
- Great unladen drive
- Handy features

LEAVE IT

- Lack of integrated trailer brake
- No tow/haul mode
- A little more power would be nice

Ferrari's supercar surprise stunner

LUCID MOTORS AIR

A head-turning debut

The Lucid Motors Air has debuted and it could be a real Tesla killer. Equipped with the largest battery pack in the automotive world, the Lucid Air has an optional 130-kWh battery to deliver an all-electric range of 643 kilometres. The company said a 100-kWh battery is standard but it's unclear what range that model offers.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

GOOGLE

Meet Waymo

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, is introducing an all-new brand, Waymo, which will be responsible for the outfit's self-driving cars. The new company will be headed by John Krafcik, the same man who has been in charge of Google's self-driving car arm since 2015. According to Krafcik, the simple aim of Waymo is "to make it safe and easy for people and things to move around."

STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

WHEELS ROUNDUP
News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com

FERRARI

Only 10 J50s will be built

Ferrari made a surprise debut of a new supercar to commemorate the brand's 50th anniversary in Japan.
Only 10 Ferrari J50s will be built, with each unit being bespoke to each customer. The Ferrari J50 is a two-seat, mid-rear-engined roadster that pays homage to the targa top Ferraris of the 1970s and 1980s. The Ferrari J50 starts life as a 488 Spider but gets churned through Ferrari's Special Projects department to become a completely new car. The J50 is powered by a 3.9-litre V8 and gets all-new bodywork that is both very futuristic while still having details that pay homage to the Italian brand's past. The most immediate differences between the Ferrari J50 and the 488 are the new LED headlights, the new carbon fiber air channels in the hood, and a completely new front bumper design.

JODI LAI/AUTOGUIDE.COM

AUTOMATION

Self-driving Uber caught breaking the law

It wasn't even 24 hours since Uber announced its self-driving car is available in San Francisco when it was caught on camera running a red light. Using Volvo XC90 SUVs and working with the Swedish automaker, Uber has launched a self-driving pilot in San Francisco. And within the first day of the announcement, at least one person has tweeted about seeing the self-driving Uber nearly hitting a car, while another person has posted a video showing the XC90 running a red light through an intersection with a pedestrian trying to cross the street.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

IN BRIEF

VW Microbus might return as an EV

Details about the second vehicle in Volkswagen's upcoming fleet of battery electric vehicles are slowly taking shape, and it looks like it will be a seven-passenger van based on the company's historic microbus. The second electric vehicle — call it the Electric Type 2, for simplicity's sake— will share the MEB platform that underpins VW's ID concept. That concept, which premiered at the Paris Auto Show, is the first car confirmed for the MEB platform. Like the ID, the Electric Type 2, will power the rear wheels from an engine placed between those same wheels.

SEBASTIEN BELL/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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DEALER TRADE MAY BE NECESSARY.

HONDA

Limited time offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. ^$2,000 Holiday Bonus offer will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes and can be combined with advertised lease and finance rates and applies to retail customer agreements for new 2016 HR-V // 2016 Fit models concluded between December 17th, 2016 and January 3rd, 2017 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. For all offers: licence, insurance, PPSA, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary. Colour and trim availability may vary by dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details.

Who really wins Nissan-Mitsubishi merger

PARTNERSHIPS

Experts say both manufacturers stand to benefit

Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

Nissan Motor Co. CEO Carlos Ghosn, left, and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. CEO Osamu Masuko. SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In October, the Nissan Renault alliance gained a new partner: Mitsubishi Motors. The new supergroup has a lot on its mind moving forward, and there are quite a few ways this partnership is looking to conquer the motoring world.

As a refresher, Nissan recently purchased 34 per cent of Mitsubishi Motors for a sum of $2.3 billion U.S. There's a number of reasons for the merger, from cost savings to parts and expertise sharing, and both companies stand to benefit. Let's break it down to see how each brand will benefit.

Nissan wants to be taken seriously in the global market, and to do that, you have to move products. While adding Mitsubishi to their stacked brand portfolio they hope to crack the elusive 10 million units-sold mark, putting them up with the big kahunas of the industry: VW, Toyota and GM.

Tim Urquhart an analyst from IHS Automotive, suggests that the Mitsubishi—Renault—Nissan group will collectively hit the 10 million unit critical mass figure by 2019.

This scale will help the group with purchasing power, meaning when it comes to dealing with suppliers, the automakers can get a better deal and bring down overall costs.

Urquhart believes it will give the group more purchasing power than the likes of VW and Toyota, but still not as much as GM.

There's also a significant role that Mitsubishi plays in this alliance on a more global market.

"Mitsubishi's focus on medium and small crossovers is in line with the way the global market is heading," says Urquhart. "It's a good fit for Renault and Nissan's existing product portfolio and existing common hardware between Renault-Nissan."

He believes that the CMF platform that underpins the Nissan Rogue and a number of other vehicles could be leveraged to bolster Mitsubishis product lineup in markets where Nissan doesn't fare well.

"(There's) plenty of scope for joint model development and cost savings in developing new medium and small crossovers and SUVs."

This sentiment is echoed by another analyst, Dave Sullivan from AutoPacific.

"There is a big gain for Nissan, and that's in Asian markets, where the company attempted a swing and missed," he said.

Sullivan explained that the launch of Datsun was a bit of a let down, but fortunately, those markets are exactly the ones that Mitsubishi is more successful in. "Now Mitsubishi can help Nissan with those markets that they were trying to crack."

Mitsubishi has also carved out a niche for itself. While it's not sold in North America (yet) the Outlander PHEV is a huge seller in overseas markets, racking up over 100,000 sales worldwide since its debut in 2013.

That makes it one of four plug-in vehicles to reach that impressive milestone.

That's a huge deal for the company, as no one else has a mainstream, non luxury plug-in hybrid, and Mitsubishi's expertise in this field will likely be put to good use by Nissan-Renault.

In fact, Carlos Ghosn, chairman and chief executive of Nissan Motor and newly appointed chairman at Mitsubishi Motors has stated that he'll look to standardize the EV tech between the two companies. While Mitsubishi is a bit of a small player here in North America, it's clear that it has some success in other markets, but there's one thing the automaker needs to do here and that's bolster its lineup.

"They need product that people can transition into," said Sullivan. Sure enough, the automaker has some strong crossovers like the Outlander and Outlander Sport, but what about when its time to graduate into a bigger more family friendly vehicle.

"They need product that people can transition into and products that are geared towards family, " said Sullivan.

At a recent event in Japan, Mitsubishi explained that it's planning to bring a third crossover to its lineup sometime in 2017. It seems like it'd be a bigger car, but nothing is for certain yet.

How can joining up with Nissan help with this? Well for starters, the automaker said fairly bluntly that they "aim for greater synergy impact in the field of purchasing, vehicle platforms, development of advance technologies, and financial services." That vehicle platforms part could be a huge key in bolstering the future of Mitsubishi.

Additionally, the money saved by having greater purchasing power can mean that the company can use its resources in a manner that's more effective in gaining brand awareness.

> **I'd expect us to see the results of this new partnership in as soon as four years.**
> Dave Sullivan

"I recall a story about White Bear Mitsubishi, a dealership that showed off a customer's crashed Outlander Sport in front of the building, exposing just how safe these cars are," said Sullivan.

The dealership enjoyed a massive spike in sales following that stunt, but since then, there hasn't been any huge promotional things that come to mind. No Superbowl ads, no action movie product placements, nothing. "The brand has just fallen off with consumers."

While marketing might not be where the money will be spent, the truth is it should be able to save some costs, with some help from Nissan-Renault. Carlos Ghosn, has successfully turned around the money-losing Nissan around and will be looking to revitalize Mitsubishi as well.

"The companies mesh well," said Sullivan. As an example, he points out that Mitsubishi uses CVTs in their most successful cars, and it just so happens that Nissan owns a controlling stake in JATCO, who makes CVTs. "It can work out in everyone's favour."

The analysts suggest that it's more than possible that this partnership can be a huge help to all parties.

"Nissan learned how successful collaboration can be when it partnered with Daimler," said Sullivan.

That team-up resulted in shared powertrains, manufacturing and platforms.

"I'd expect us to see the results of this new partnership in as soon as four years."

NEW RELEASES

2018 Mercedes E-Class Coupe drops two doors to stunning effect

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Mercedes-Benz has introduced the all-new 2018 E-Class Coupe ahead of its public appearance at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show.

Heading to dealerships in summer 2017, the 2018 Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupe is longer, wider and taller than its predecessor.

The stylish coupe also sits 3.3 inches taller. As a result, the larger footprint benefits passengers with extra space and comfort, especially in terms of rear legroom, front and rear shoulder room, as well as rear headroom.

For the U.S. market, the E-Class Coupe will initially launch with the E400 and E400 4MATIC models, powered by a 3.0-litre biturbo V6 engine with 329 horsepower and 354 pound-feet of torque.

Both models are equipped as standard with the 9G-Tronic nine-speed automatic transmission, allowing the standard model to go zero-to-97 km/h in 5.2 seconds.

The 4MATIC all-wheel-drive variant does the sprint in 5.5 seconds.

The model will come standard with a central high-resolution COMAND display, and available as an option is the widescreen instrument cluster that is unique to the segment.

Buyers can also opt for an available Sport Package that adds edgier details like front and rear bumpers, as well as side skirts and larger AMG-style wheels.

The package also includes a different front grille with chrome-tipped blocks and an AMG leather sports steering wheel for the cabin.

And since the E-Class Coupe comes standard with COMAND Navigation, it is also compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Another highlight of the model is Drive Pilot, a system that represents Mercedes-Benz's next step to semi-autonomous driving. With Distance Pilot Distronic, the car is not only able to keep the correct distance behind vehicles in front on all types of road, but for the first time, it can also automatically follow them at a speed of up to 209 km/h.

> **With its clear, aesthetic lines, our new E-Class Coupe appeals equally to the heart and mind.**
> Dr. Thomas Weber

Expect pricing for the 2018 Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupe to be announced closer to its launch in 2017.

"With its clear, aesthetic lines, our new E-Class Coupe appeals equally to the heart and mind," said Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber, member of the board of management of Daimler AG and responsible for group research and Mercedes-Benz cars development. "It combines contemporary luxury, agile sportiness and high-tech engineering into an automotive personality with spirit, offering exclusive, refined driving pleasure."

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CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep. RAM chryslercanada.ca/offers

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Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price after taxes or may be issued as a cheque. Maximum $2,000 Boxing Week Bonus Cash only available on select Ram 1500 and 2500/3500 models. Offer available at participating dealers. See dealer for complete details and exclusions. †0% purchase financing for 84 months available on select new models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. 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Bonus Cash is deducted after taxes. ➤$80 a week is for advertising purposes only and is not an available offer. 1.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Jeep Cherokee North FWD (24J) with a Purchase Price of $30,777 with a $0 down payment, financed at 1.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $160 with a cost of borrowing of $2,540 and a total obligation of $33,317.28. ■Jeep Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash up to $1,000 is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2016 Jeep Compass (excludes base 26D, 26G, 25D & 28D models), Patriot (excludes base 26B, 26D, 25D & 28D models), Cherokee (excludes all Sport models), Renegade or Grand Cherokee and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: Current owners/lessees of a Jeep or any other manufacturer's CUV or SUV. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before December 1, 2016. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. Limit one bonus cash offer up to $1,000 per eligible transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ††$85 a week is for advertising purposes only and is not an available offer. 0% lease financing for up to 39 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2017 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2017 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Sport 4x4 (26L) with a Purchase Price of $42,114 leased at 0% for 39 months with a $500 security deposit, $1,999 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 39 monthly payments of $369 with a cost of borrowing of $0 (including $60.25 PPSA registration) and a total obligation of $16,432.96. Kilometre allowance of 16,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. 2017 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Sport 4x4 (26L) models may require order and be subject to a delay. If the lease residual value changes during this period, the lease terms such as down payment and/or monthly payments could also change. See your retailer for complete details. ≈Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 4.99%/6.99% financing available on select 2016 models. Financing examples: Purchase Price of $30,000 with a $1,000 down payment, financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $189/$202 with a cost of borrowing of $5,418.76/$7,753.86 and a total finance obligation of $34,418.76/$36,753.86. Some conditions apply. 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Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ^Based on the latest available competitive information and WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. Based on availability of I-4 and V6 powertrains, front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive, 5- and 7-passenger seating, second-row removable in-floor storage bins, integrated child booster seats, front-passenger in-seat storage and forward fold-flat front passenger seat. ¶Based on 2014 WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

Cars we said goodbye to in 2016

YEAR END

Here are some cars that sadly won't make it into 2017

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Of all the cars that 2016 took away from us, perhaps the loss of the Dodge Viper stings most.
RENE JOHNSTON/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

As we welcome in a new batch of wonderful and exciting cars for 2017, we have to look back and remember all the cars we lost in 2016.

This year we said farewell to a lot of cars, some of which were a surprise to many car lovers. Others are being replaced by new models, while some were questionable when they headed to production in the first place. We even had to say goodbye to an entire automaker in 2016.

Below is a list of cars that we will no longer be seeing at dealerships next year.

Audi R8 e-tron

It never seemed like all-electric supercars had a place in today's market. Some would argue they're ahead of their time, but others will just say they don't belong.

The truth is, when someone lays eyes on something like an Audi R8, they expect it to sound as good as it looks. The problem with the Audi R8 e-tron was that it sounded just like a Nissan Leaf, which is just about the least exciting thing out there.

There was also the issue of the $1.1 million U.S. price tag, which surely scared many buyers away.

BMW Z4

The BMW Z4's production came to an end this year as the German automaker gets ready to produce the new Z5. The upcoming sports car will ride on a platform co-developed with Toyota and will serve as a successor to the Z4.

Toyota's sports car from the partnership is widely believed to be a successor to the Supra. Both companies have said that the two vehicles from their partnership won't compete with one another, as the Supra will be a coupe while the BMW will be convertible only.

Buick Verano

Like so many other automakers, Buick has decided to focus on crossovers and SUVs and will be dumping its Verano sedan next year, at least in the U.S. The model continues to be successful in Europe so the nameplate will live on in other parts of the world.

+ MINIVANS

Chrysler Town & Country

Yes, minivans are a dying breed and now the Chrysler Town & Country has become extinct. But that's only because Chrysler replaced it with the all-new Pacifica that is doing well in the market despite the crossover and SUV boom.

Cadillac ELR

Even for a car that was designed to be low volume, the Cadillac ELR didn't meet anyone's expectations. And that's because it was basically an $80,000 Chevrolet Volt with a dressed up interior and exterior sporting Cadillac badges. This is one of the least surprising cars on the list and we're actually surprised it lasted as long as it did.

Chrysler 200

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles is focusing on boosting production of its Jeep and Ram products, which means something has to be sacrificed. In fact, two cars are being axed as a result with the Chrysler 200 sedan being one of them. Despite its attractive styling and a real good attempt at capturing the midsize sedan market, the 200 failed to put up a fight against the segment's heavyweights like the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord.

Dodge Dart

The Dodge Dart joins the Chrysler 200 as part of FCA's plan of diverting its attention to Jeep SUVs and Ram pickup trucks. The compact sedan did its part to attract a younger generation of buyers, but like the 200, faced plenty of stiff competition without offering something too compelling.

Dodge Viper

Probably the biggest surprise on the list is the Dodge Viper getting killed off. The sports car has become so iconic over the years that it was believed Dodge would keep it around just to keep it around, even if it was low volume and made-to-order. Unfortunately the latest model failed to grab traction in the market but rumors do suggest the American automaker is working on a successor.

These are the best winter tires you can buy

SAFETY

Cut through confusion and get the right tool for the job

Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

The winter season is here and with it comes all the snow, slush, ice and muck that makes driving during this time such a headache.

However, you can cut through all that mess if your car is equipped with winter tires. You may be wondering what winter tires to get, and we've got some handy information from the folks at TireRack.com to help point you in the right direction.

Customers at TireRack.com have reported back to the online retailer via surveys, explaining their likes and dislikes on the winter tires they purchased, and there's a staggering 130,915 surveys offering info. Things from the amount of kilometres logged on a set of tires, to the way they feel in the wet and dry are all ranked and it allows us to get a good understanding of what the best tires you can get are. These surveys have been going on since 1997, and encompass 459 different tire models.

Here are the best winter tires they are in each respective category for both cars and SUVs.

Studless Ice & Snow

These are your typical winter tires. Without the use of studs, these tires are designed to provide traction in ice and snow. They may not be best winter tires for dry and wet weather, but they'll provide the best confidence in white stuff.

Bridgestone Blizzak WS80

The Bridgestones Blizzak WS80 were the top rated tire according to TireRack customers, netting over 1.3 million miles of reported reviews. These tires topped all others offered at the online retailer earning top marks in snow and ice performance while also impressing owners with their performance in the wet as well. Owners all seem to agree that they'd recommend these tires to someone else.

Also consider: Michelin X-Ice3, Goodyear Ultra Grip Ice WRT, Studdable Winter / Snow

Drivers who live in areas that see a lot of ice may want to get these kinds of tires, which can be equipped with studs to enhance grip in slippery situations. On the other hand, they don't need studs to be effective winter tires either.

General Altimax Arctic

The General Altimax Arctic has over 11 million miles on the road according to its reviewers, and are regarded as the best tires in this category by the online retailer. It earned top marks in the snow and ice performance, in addition to dry road performance, where studded tires can be a pain.

Finally, the tires also received the best rating in the class for comfort.

Also Consider: Goodyear Ultra Grip Winter, Pirelli Winter Carving Edge.

+ SUVS

Light Truck/SUV Studless Ice & Snow

SUVs and Crossovers need winter tires too, even if they have fancy all-wheel drive systems. The tires are the essential part of the vehicle that gives it traction, and if the rubber has no grip then nothing will change that. Like the car categories, these Studless Ice and Snow tires are the tires designed to excel in snow and ice, while being adequate at dry and wet handling.

The tires you choose are dependent on your needs. If you live in a particularly icy area, you might want to go with studs. Otherwise, studless should be adequate. ISTOCK

*Selling price is $42,190 // $46,790 // $53,690 // $65,790 on a new 2017 Acura RDX (TB4H3HJNX) // model shown, a new 2017 Acura RDX Elite (TB4H7HKN) // a new 2017 Acura MDX (YD4H2HJNX) // model shown, a 2017 MDX Elite (YD4H8HKN) available through Acura Financial Services on approved credit. Representative lease example: 0.9% // 0.9% (2.38% effective APR) // 2.9% // 2.9% (3.49% effective APR) lease rate for 36 // 36 // 48 // 48 months (36 // 48 payments). Monthly payment is $428 // $520 // $578 // $754 with $3,750 // $6,300 down payment. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is $19,158 // $22,470 // $34,044 // $42,492. Lease payment includes freight and PDI of $2,045. Holiday Bonus of $1,000 // $0 and applicable taxes but does not include lien registration fee of up to $70.75, and lien registering agent fee of $5.00, which are due at time of delivery. Taxes, insurance, license and registration fees (all of which may vary by region) are extra. $1,000 // $0 Holiday Bonus includes applicable sales taxes. ‡$2,500 // $1,000 Cash Rebate (CCR) is available on new 2017 Acura RDX Tech (TB4H5HKNX), and 2017 RDX Elite (TB4H7HKN) models // new 2017 Acura MDX Navi (YD4H4HKNX), MDX Tech (YD4H6HKN) and MDX Elite (YD4H8HKN) models when registered and delivered before January 3, 2017. Total incentives consist of: (i) $1,500 // $1,000 that cannot be combined with lease/finance offers; and (ii) $1,000 // $0 Holiday Bonus that can be combined with lease/finance offers. All incentives will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. ◊$1,000 Holiday Bonus is available on all new 2017 RDX models when registered and delivered before January 3, 2017. Holiday Bonus can be combined with lease/finance offers and will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. Some terms/conditions apply. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end January 3, 2017 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. Certain features only available on certain trims. Visit acura.ca or your Acura dealer for details. © 2016 Acura, a division of Honda Canada Inc.

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What to do with that e-car in a condo

Owning an electric car while living in an apartment or condo can be a challenge, but it is not insurmountable. ISTOCK

TECHNOLOGY

Look into shopping centres, apps

Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

With their limited range and small sizes, it should come as no surprise that nearly 98 percent of electric vehicle registrations happen in "urban areas" or densely populated cities.

While the green lifestyle is very appealing to prospective EV owners, the ever important challenge of charging a car is hard to ignore. It's pretty easy if you have your own house with a garage, but if you live in a condo or apartment, you may be wondering how to charge your own car at home. Fortunately, we have some ideas.

Whenever it's time to talk about charging an electric car, we have to bring up the types of chargers involved. There's Level 1 charging, which uses your typical 120-volt plug.

To get the full range on a Nissan Leaf, that would take almost 26 hours of straight charging. In other words, it's not exactly ideal for daily use. Instead, you may want a Level 2 charger, which is what most EV buyers get at their home, if they can. These operate at 240-volts and can charge cars much quicker. In the case of a Leaf, it can charge fully in about seven hours or even less if the car is equipped with the optional 6.6 kW onboard charger.

Finally, there's Level 3 charging, also known as fast chargers, which are very powerful and are typically used in paid stations.

Some of these stations aren't compatible with every EV. For example, Tesla uses its own system, called Superchargers. These can charge a compatible electric vehicle in just over an hour. They're typically used for quick charges during a road trip.

Electric car owners should look to use a Level 2 charger at home, but if you live in a place with shared parking facilities like an apartment or condo, then you may not be able to install a charger.

It's not impossible, though. A recent bill passed in California, called AB-2565, will allow renters to install a charger in their parking spots if they're willing to cover all the costs associated with the installation.

Some condos also require the electricity from your charging station be metered and billed back to your unit.

For homeowners with parking spots, it is also possible to install a charger in your spot in your condo's parking garage. Technically, you own that parking spot, so you can buy and install a charger there, however, because you don't own the facilities, you need to present your case to the homeowner's association.

Nissan and other EV advocacy groups provide whitepapers that will help convince landlords about the benefits of installing chargers at their buildings.

If you're renting a condo and aren't able to install a charger in your rented parking spot, you could consider flipping the charging schedule. Instead of charging at home, charge while you're at work.

A readily available Level 1 charger wouldn't improve your situation that much, but it may be enough to help you commute home.

Eight hours on a 120-volt charger could net you just more than 48 kilometres, which could be usable for some city dwellers.

Another option is to install a Level 2 charger at your workplace. That's may not sound like an easy task, unless you're the boss of your company, but there are some initiatives in place that help broadcast the benefits of having chargers at the workplace.

If not at the workplace, then there may be a public Level 2 charger nearby your home or workplace.

You can also make it a habit to only go shopping at places you know will have charging stations.

More shopping centres are featuring charging stations and it's a huge help for both customers and retailers.

PLUGSHARE

Owners could use an app like PlugShare to help find a station close to them. PlugShare is a service that allows EV owners to find and review charging stations.

- For public stations, users can even message each other to coordinate sharing and time remaining on a plug.
- Users can even find friendly EV owners who are willing to share their personal chargers. Another function is that users can use the app to pay for charge stations.

metro SPORTS

U.S. forward Alex Morgan is leaving the Orlando Pride for European champion Lyon with hopes of becoming the world's best player

Matthews keeps it light amid pressure

NHL

Maple Leafs rookie part of young core finding balance

Auston Matthews enters the final two games before the Christmas break leading his team in scoring and ranking among the best pure scorers in the game.

The Maple Leafs' rookie centre is seventh in goals per game among the NHL's top shooters. And while that's impressive enough for a 19-year-old just 31 games into his career, Matthews is ahead of established snipers like Vladimir Tarasenko and Alex Ovechkin.

Matthews stood confidently before the media Tuesday, following a tough 3-2 loss to Anaheim in which he scored his team-leading 15th goal. But the Leafs, Matthews included, were dominated in the faceoff circle by the NHL's best faceoff team, a sobering note for a young team full of speed and skill but still learning how to win.

"No excuses," Matthews told reporters.

Confidence is a pivotal subject with Matthews. He has been placed in hockey's biggest, most intense market, with expectations of him becoming the franchise's next generational star. He seems to have the pressure part covered. He's surrounded by several other teenagers, all of whom are going through the same development curve. And they tend to inject fun into their hockey lives as a measure of balance.

It's not easy your first year, so you go through the same learning curve together, you can talk about it together too.
Auston Matthews on playing with other rookies

Auston Matthews has seen his ice time steadily increase — he's averaging 18:51 per game in December. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Take for instance a GIF that appeared on the NHL's Instagram account, showing Matthews and fellow rookie Mitch Marner entering the Air Canada Centre on Monday night looking like something out of The Untouchables. The clip quickly spread on social media, winding up, among other places, on Steven Stamkos's Twitter account.

"You saw it there, so they're going to hear about it," Leafs winger James van Riemsdyk said, with a laugh, after the Leafs' practice Tuesday.

Leafs coach Mike Babcock had predicted that Matthews was going to be a dominant centre by Christmas. And he's giving his centre the ice time to realize that promise. Matthews' average time has increased each month — from 17:11 a game in October to 17:27 in November to 18:51 this month, including 19:58 the last five games. And Matthews has responded, following a 13-game goal drought with nine in his last 12 games.

In the meantime, Matthews is always up for some fun, especially with Marner. There was some discrepancy in their stories when it came time to explain why Marner joined Matthews in donning the mobster look prior to Monday's game.

Matthews would have none of it. "Ah, he stole (my look) for sure," he said, laughing. "I told him about it, I didn't know he'd show up to the game in the same hat."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA

Raps step it up on DeRozan's off night

TUESDAY At ACC

RAPTORS	NETS
116	104

Kyle Lowry scored 23 points to lift Toronto to a 116-104 win over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday, the Raptors' 12 victory in their last 14 appearances.

DeMar DeRozan, who was coming off Eastern Conference player of the week honours and leads the East in scoring, managed just 15 points on 6-for-20 shooting for Toronto (20-8).

But his teammates made up for his off night, as Norman Powell scored a season-high 21 points, DeMarre Carroll had 17, Jonas Valanciunas grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds to go with 10 points and Cory Joseph chipped in with 11 points as the Raptors roared to their 15th consecutive game with 100-plus points.

Rondae Hollis-Hefferson had 19 points to top the Nets (7-20), who played without starting centre Brook Lopez — he took the night off for rest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TENNIS

Kvitova injured in attack with knife

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was injured by a knife-wielding attacker at her home on Tuesday and had to undergo surgery on her left hand.

An operation that took three hours and 45 minutes revealed that the left-handed player's injuries were "serious," but "there's no reason to think she wouldn't be able to play tennis," her spokesman Karel Tejkal said.

Kvitova will, however, miss the Australian Open and a significant part of the season as she won't be able to fully train for at least three months, Tejkal said.

Kvitova sustained damaged to the tendons in her left hand, along with injuries to all five fingers and two nerves, added Tejkal, who described the incident as a burglary in the eastern Czech town of Prostejov.

"In my attempt to defend myself, I was badly injured on my left hand. I am shaken, but fortunate to be alive," Kvitova wrote on Twitter.

Petra Kvitova GETTY IMAGES

"The injury is severe and I will need to see specialists, but if you know anything about me I am strong and I will fight this."

Police spokesman Frantisek Korinek said the male attacker escaped from the scene and was at large. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Ducks dominating battles at the dots

The Anaheim Ducks are masters of the draw this season.

The NHL's best faceoff team at 56 per cent, Anaheim put on a clinic Monday night in its 3-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs, winning 67 per cent of the total faceoffs (42 of 61), including 20 of 24 in the second period.

The game-winner came on a perfectly executed faceoff by veteran Ryan Kesler. Facing rookie Maple Leafs centre Frederik Gauthier on his backhand, Kesler shuffled the draw directly to his right where Cam Fowler was waiting. The Ducks defenceman whipped the perfect faceoff win past Leafs goalie Frederik Andersen.

"I thought they dominated the circle against us," Leafs coach Mike Babcock said.

Antoine Vermette, far and away the league's best in the circle, emerged on 86 per cent of his 21 draws against the Leafs, including 10 of 11 in the defensive zone. The 34-year-old boasts a ridiculous 65.6 per cent success rate this season, well ahead of Jordan Staal in second place (61.1 per cent).

65.6

Antoine Vermette leads the league in faceoff success, winning 65.6 per cent of the time.

The former Ottawa Senator second-round pick ranks first in the NHL in the home confines of the Honda Center in Anaheim (67.4 per cent) and first on the road too (64.2 per cent).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Hernandez denied a delay to double-murder trial

Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez has lost his bid to delay his trial in the 2012 killing of two men in Boston.

Prosecutors say a Suffolk Superior Court judge on Tuesday denied a request by Hernandez's lawyer to delay the trial slated to start Feb. 13.

Hernandez is already serving a life sentence for the 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BoSox deal Buchholz to Phils

The Boston Red Sox have traded right-hander Clay Buchholz to the Philadelphia Phillies for minor-league second baseman Josh Tobias.

Buchholz was the odd man out in a Boston rotation that added Chris Sale this off-season.

Buchholz, 32, is a two-time all-star but has been inconsistent through his career. He is 81-61 with a 3.96 ERA in 10 big-league seasons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real rolling into 2017

LA LIGA

Spanish giants moving ahead of rivals with dominant play

It's been nearly a decade since Real Madrid was this dominant heading into the halfway point of the season.

Not even in 2012-13, when it last won the Spanish league title.

With Cristiano Ronaldo at his best and Zinedine Zidane flourishing in his first full season as a head coach, Madrid looks closer than ever to ending its title drought in the league.

Madrid also had the lead after 16 matches in 2014-15, when it had also won the Champions League and the Club World Cup. That team eventually collapsed under coach Carlos Ancelotti and ended the season in disappointment.

3

Real Madrid has a three-point lead on rival Barcelona with a game in hand going into the Christmas break.

"We all know what happened in 2014 after we won the Club World Cup. It can happen at any moment," said Zidane, who had been an assistant to Ancelotti. "I think that the season will be long and difficult for us. If we work hard I don't think that things will change."

With two more games without a loss, Madrid will match Barcelona's Spanish record of 39 games unbeaten, a mark set last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane won the Club World Cup on Sunday in Yokohama, Japan. GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Dortmund fans fed up
Borussia Dortmund ended 2016 with whistles from its own fans after being held to a 1-1 draw in the Bundesliga by gritty Augsburg on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

St. Louis group pushes back MLS stadium plans
A group seeking to build a new soccer stadium in St. Louis postponed its Tuesday meeting with a state finance board, one day after Missouri's governor-elect expressed strong opposition to public financing for the project. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

England fall in India
England's losing tour of India ended in further failure on Tuesday when the tourists collapsed to an innings and 75-run loss in the fifth test in Chennai. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giants fined for walkie-talk
The NFL has fined the New York Giants and Ben McAdoo and moved the team's fourth-rounder in next year's draft to the end of the round because the rookie coach used a walkie-talkie during a game against Dallas more than a week ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ryan keeps Falcons' season soaring

NFL

Atlanta's high scoring offence rolls on despite injury to Jones

The Atlanta Falcons can afford to be patient with Julio Jones' return from a sprained toe.

After all, there's no need to rush Jones' recovery after Atlanta topped 40 points in two straight lopsided wins without the star wide receiver.

These are heady times for the Falcons' offence, which already has obliterated the team's single-season scoring record with two games remaining in the regular season. The Falcons play at Carolina on Saturday.

Atlanta is the NFL's top-scoring team, and the race isn't even close. The Falcons (9-5) have 469 points, 63 more than the second-place Saints' 406.

Atlanta's players aren't saying much about the scoring record. They're focused on the more important race for the NFC South title. Atlanta is one game ahead of division rival Tampa Bay.

"If we have to score three points or we have to score a lot of points, we just want to do our part in winning," right guard Chris Chester said Tuesday.

Jones watched from the sideline as the Falcons beat San Francisco 41-13 on Sunday to shatter the mark of 442 points set by the 1998 Super Bowl team. He also missed the previous week's 42-14 win at the Rams.

The Falcons' success has placed quarterback Matt Ryan in the MVP discussion. He has 32 touchdowns passes with only seven interceptions.

"For me, he's my MVP," running back Devonta Freeman said Tuesday.

Ryan has consistently distributed his passes to a large number of targets. Depth at receiver helped keep the offence moving even without Jones.

Aldrick Robinson led the team with a personal-best 111 yards receiving on four catches against the 49ers. Taylor Gabriel added three catches for 60 yards, including his team-leading sixth touchdown reception.

"It shows the depth that we have by having each other's back," said receiver Justin Hardy. "If one guy goes down, another guy steps in and we don't miss a beat. It says a lot about the team and the character we have."

Jones ran routes at the start of practice on Tuesday and is expected to give the toe a full-speed test on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matt Ryan has the Atlanta Falcons flying high on their way to the playoffs. The team leads the NFL in scoring, and recently shattered the club's single-season scoring record — now 469 points — despite an injury to receiver Julio Jones. KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Jazzed-up Tuna Melt

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You can prep the addictive ingredients of this jazzed-up tuna melt in the time it takes your oven to pre-heat.

Ready in 10 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 2 whole wheat pita breads
- 1 can tuna
- 1/3 cup diced Granny Smith apple
- 1/3 cup diced celery
- 1/8 cup diced cornichon or dill pickle
- 1 Tbsp mayonnaise
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup grated cheddar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

2. In a large bowl, mix together the tuna, apple celery, pickle and mayo until it is well combined. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Spread mixture across pitas. Leave a small border around edge the way you do with pizza — it makes it easier to pick up and eat.

4. Sprinkle the cheese evenly across both pitas. Place the pitas on a baking sheet.

5. Pop in the hot oven for about 10 minutes until the cheese is completely melted and the edges of the pitas are toasty brown.

6. Remove from oven and cool for a couple of minutes before cutting each pita into quarters.

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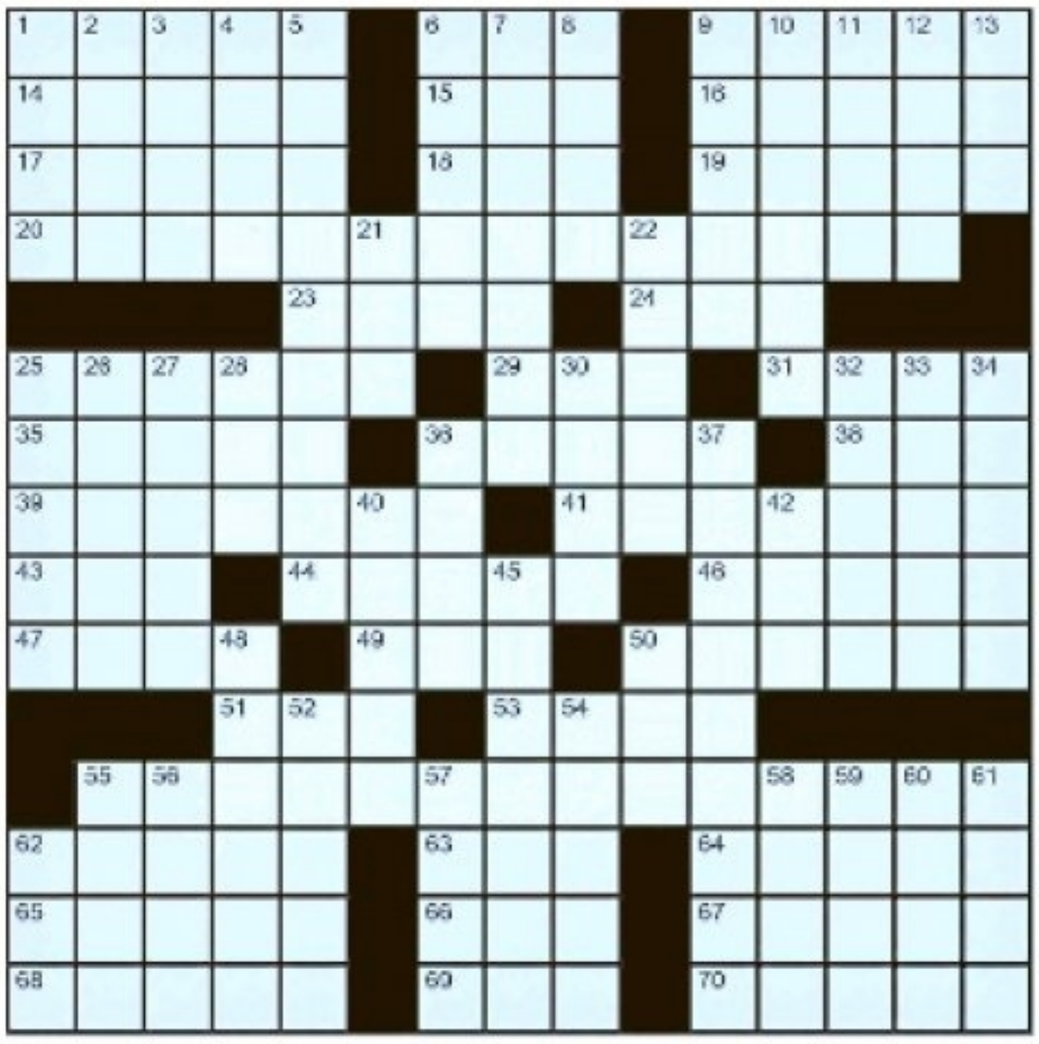
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Abu _ (United Arab Emirates capital)
6. Perform on Broadway
9. Wharfs
14. Keepsake of yore
15. Oslo's li'l locale
16. Remove a toque
17. Alvin _ American Dance Theater
18. Universal principle
19. Turkey treatment
20. Christmas meal condiment: 2 wds.
23. Some deer
24. Howdys
25. Does better than F
29. Christmas _
31. Christmas servings
35. Ancient seaport of Rome
36. Pew user's supports
38. Opening
39. Ghost of Christmas Past, for one
41. Vexing
43. Commandments number
44. Every 60 minutes
46. Ancient column style
47. Winter hill surface
49. _-Margret
50. Musical compositions
51. Daily time segments, briefly
53. Racing's 'Romeo'
55. Popular buys during the festive season: 3 wds.
62. Soil fertilizers
63. Globe
64. Blue _ (Canadian band)
65. Ram's sign
66. Long-snouted fish
67. _ days
68. Rene Descartes: "Je _, donc je suis." (I think, therefore I am)
69. "I _ _ Rock" by Simon & Garfunkel
70. Rug-making apparatuses

DOWN
1. Bram Stoker's li'l vampire
2. Prince Charles, for one
3. Teatro _ Scala (Milan opera house)
4. "Tres _!"
5. Visible sign from the stepping-outside-person that it's really cold out there: 2 wds.
6. Cavern
7. Become rough
8. Brad Pitt's ancient film
9. Persian Gulf emirate
10. Forward-moving surge
11. Swanky
12. "Citizen _" (1941)
13. Sault _, Marie, Ontario
21. Greek dawn goddess
22. _ hosiery
25. Stations
26. Tree beavers like
27. Shorthand, for short
28. As written
30. Wedding dress extra
32. Contests of ancient Greece
33. Ms. Van Doren
34. Eyeglasses, fun-style
36. Musicals composer Jerome
37. CSP = Canadian _ _ (Rescue/first aid service on Winter mountains)
40. _ turkey
42. Old French coin
45. 'Noel' as Leon ...or... 'Tinsel' as Silent
48. Narwhals and Bowheads
50. Switch selection
52. Russian, in the French language
54. Astrology sign
55. Plain
56. Ireland, to a poet
57. _ pants (Casual/fitness wear)
58. Alone
59. Produce Department selection
60. Abound
61. Some of "The Brady Bunch"
62. Blueprint

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
For the next month, the Sun is at the top of your chart, shining a flattering light on you. This makes you look great in the eyes of bosses, parents and VIPs. Yay!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do whatever you can to get out of town and experience a change of scenery during the next month, because you need this! You're eager for stimulation and new experiences.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will be intense about everything in the next four weeks. However, this is a good time to wrap up loose ends with inheritances, taxes and shared property.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Partnerships and friendships are on your mind for the next month. Many of you will run into ex-partners at this time.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your efficiency at work might suffer now because of Mercury retrograde. Nevertheless, you will do your best to be on top of your game during the next four weeks.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
During the month ahead, you'll want to play! Vacations, romantic escapes, sports events, the arts and playful times with children will be tops on your list.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Home, family and your private life will demand your attention during the next four weeks. Many of you are in contact with relatives whom you haven't seen in a while.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The pace of your days in the month ahead will accelerate — there's no question about it. Life will be busy with short trips and errands, plus increased reading, writing and studying.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The pace of your days will accelerate during the next four weeks, because you will be busy with short trips and many errands. Gear up for this busier schedule.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun will be in your sign for the next four weeks, energizing you in a wonderful way. This will attract people to you, especially people from your past!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a lovely time for you to buy wardrobe items. It's also a great time to do research of any kind. Make plans behind the scenes for your coming year ahead.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Enjoy increased popularity with others in the next four weeks. People want to see you and be part of your world. (It's nice to be loved.)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				8	1	2		
		3	7					
	2							5
	8		9		3			4
4								3
9			5		8		2	
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4	6	5	8	3	9	2	7	1
6	2	1	3	5	4	8	9	7
5	3	7	9	8	6	4	1	2
9	8	4	2	1	7	5	6	3
3	4	9	1	7	8	6	2	5
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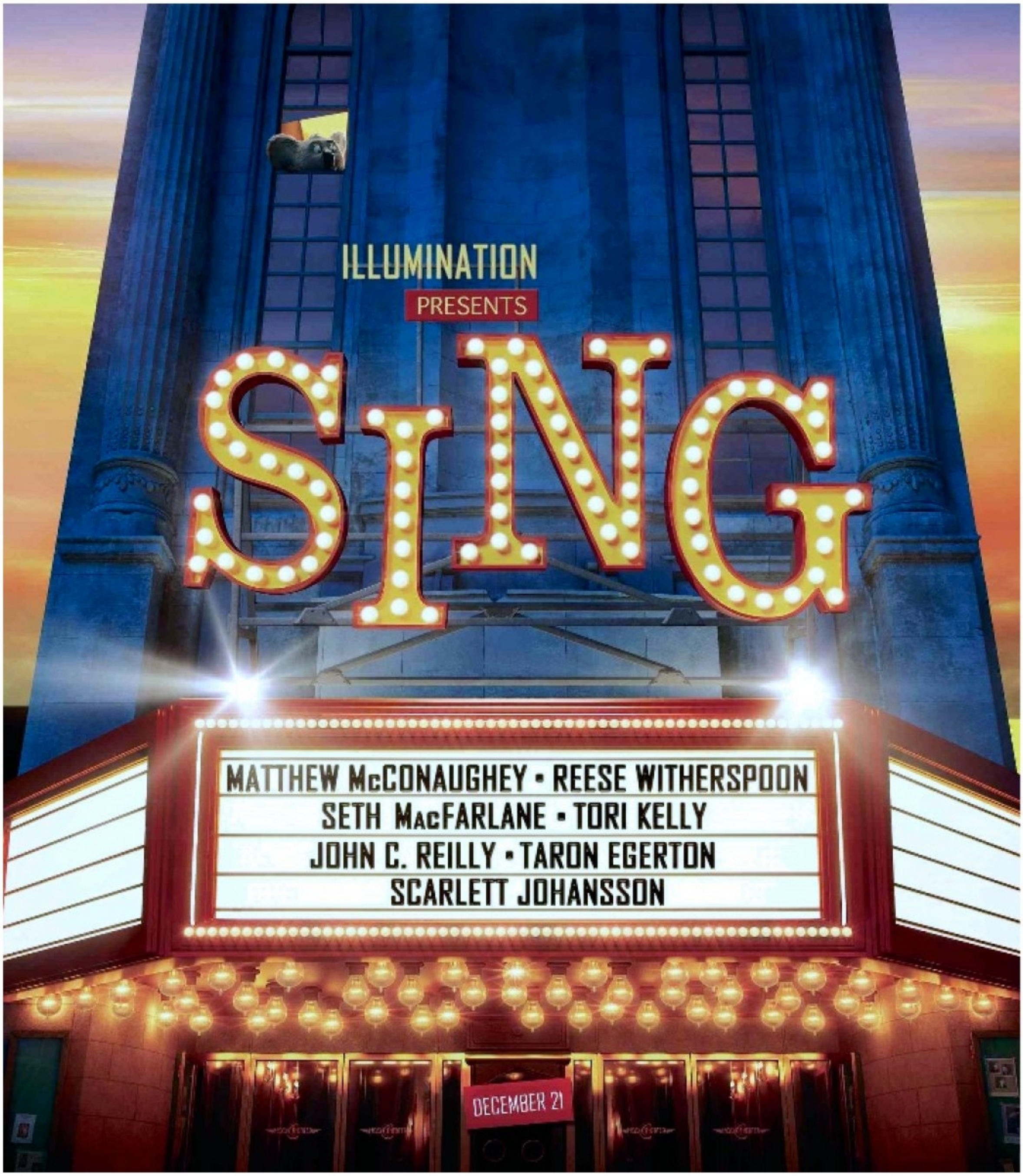
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